

On Top Of The News

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INSIDE TODAY

Casualties of war

RAY RIVERA

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KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan officials said Sunday that a NATO airstrike killed 14 civilians, all of them women and children, in the southern province of Helmand on Saturday night.

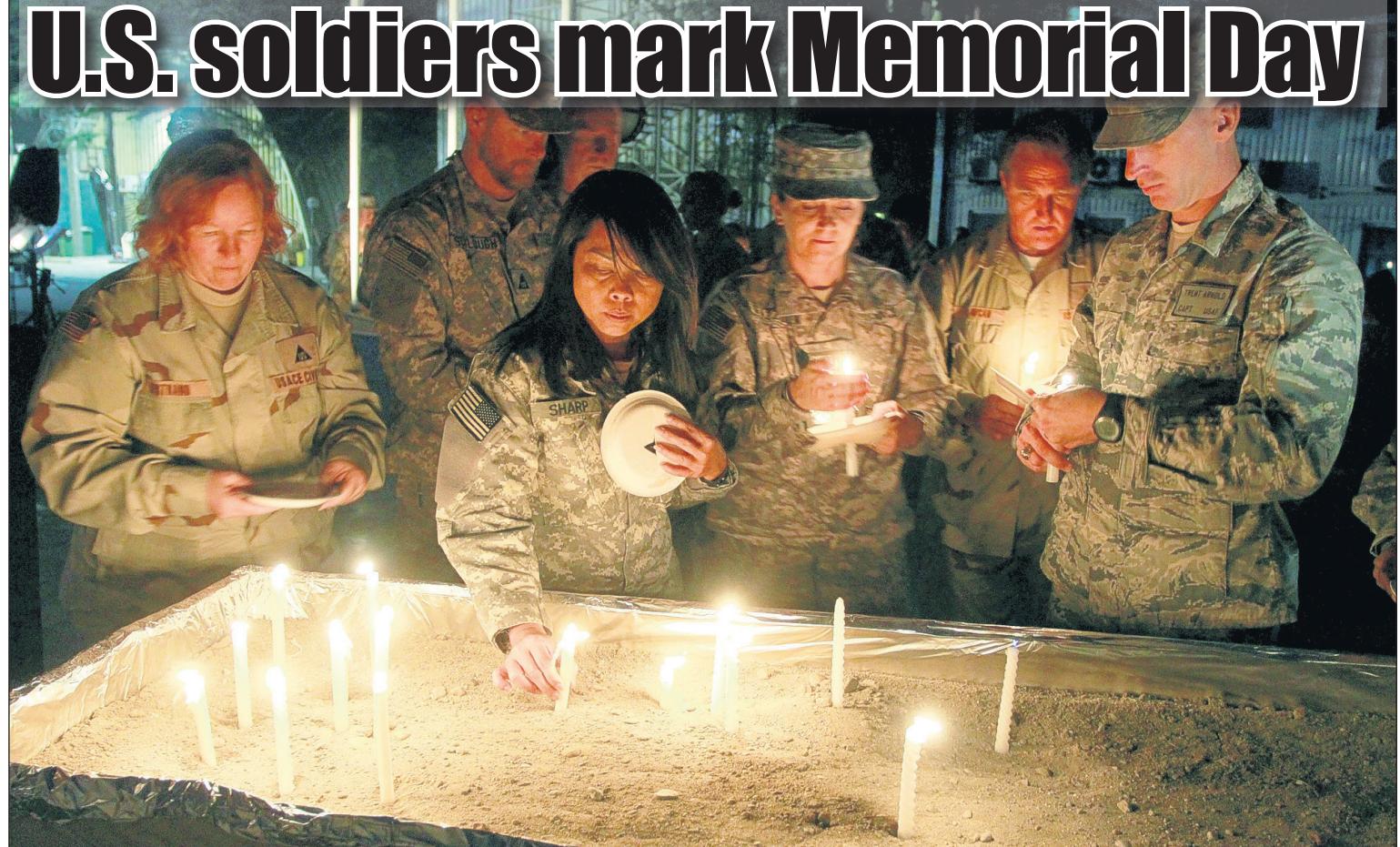
Local officials said the strike was aimed at Taliban fighters and missed. NATO said it was investigating. Civilian deaths have strained relations for years between the NATO-led military coalition and the Afghan government, and NATO has made efforts to reduce them. President Hamid Karzai, who has frequently condemned NATO for civilian casualties, called the deaths in Helmand “shocking,” and said in a statement that “NATO and American forces have been warned repeatedly that their arbitrary and improper operations are the causes of killing of innocent people.”

Witnesses said an unknown number of bombs fell around 11 p.m. Saturday, landing on two family compounds in the Salam Bazaar area of Nawzad district, a small farming community about 50 miles north of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province.

Five girls, seven boys and two women were killed as they slept, the provincial governor’s office said in a statement. Another six people were wounded. Grieving friends and relatives drove through the night transporting eight bodies to the provincial hospital in Lashkar Gah, a resident of the village, Haji Janan, said. The other bodies remained buried under rubble as villagers tried to dig them out, he said.

Continued on Page 13

U.S. soldiers mark Memorial Day



U.S. soldiers place lit candles as they gather to mark Memorial Day at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan on Sunday, May 29, 2011. Some U.S. troops in Afghanistan have held a candlelit remembrance for those lost ahead of Memorial Day.

(AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— Nearly a decade later, af-

ter more than 1,400 killed in combat, some U.S. troops paused for a moment Sunday to remember what brought

America to Afghanistan and to honor the lives that continue to be lost. Blackhawk helicopters churned through the night sky

as a strong wind coming over Kabul's surrounding mountains blew against the flickering candles that cast an or-

ange glow on those gathered for the ceremony at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' headquarters. Earlier in the day, those working there enjoyed one of their five days off a year from building police stations, dams and other projects in a nation torn by decades of war. Col. Thomas Magness, 47, of Los Angeles, California urged the more than 100 corps employees and U.S. troops gathered there to remember the meaning of Memorial Day — advice that could carry home to America. “While we were playing volleyball today, no doubt some soldier gave the ultimate sacrifice,” the corps commander said. Memorial Day, instituted to honor America’s war dead, will be observed Monday with a public holiday.

Palin makes celebrity entrance in D.C.



Sarah Palin joins in a motorcycle ride at the annual Rolling Thunder motorcycle rally in Washington, May 29, 2011. The stop at the rally kicked off her East Coast bus tour, which is seen as another sign the former governor of Alaska is weighing a Republican presidential bid.

(Damon Winter/The New York Times)

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — For sheer mastery of celebrity theater, Sarah Palin cannot be beat.

Palin, the former governor of Alaska, let the anticipation build for hours Sunday in the Pentagon’s North Parking Lot, where thousands of

bikers (and their rumbling Harleys) had gathered for the annual Rolling Thunder rally ahead of Memorial Day.

Continued on Page 4

Continued on Next Page

Americans worldwide mark Memorial Day



A man sits alone at Arlington West, a memorial display with hundreds of crosses and other religious symbols representing service people killed in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, sponsored by Veterans for Peace, on the beach at Santa Monica, Calif., Sunday, May 29, 2011.

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

Continued from Front Page

This Memorial Day comes before the 10-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, which ultimately brought U.S. troops into Afghanistan to un-

seat the Taliban government and hunt terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

"Our country got attacked, and we're here to fight the war on it," said Roger Nowicki of the corps.

While Navy SEALs shot and killed bin Laden earlier this month in neighboring Pakistan, the U.S.-led war here continues. President Barack Obama plans to draw down U.S. troops beginning in July,

while NATO has committed to handing over control of security in the country to Afghans by 2014.

In the meantime, the war grinds on toward its 10th year. The sharp pangs of loss are visible on some attending the event, like Maj. Erica Iverson, 33, of Vermillion, South Dakota. She spoke of serving as a casualty assistance officer after the 2010 death of Staff Sgt. Adam Dickmyer of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who once served as a sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Iverson's voice choked as she recounted how Dickmyer's mother fell off her chair in grief when her son's body returned to the U.S. His widow chased after the casket, screaming: "Don't leave me!" "His wife has an empty house," Iverson said.

"His entire unit came home today, and he didn't come with them," Iverson said speech-

writers for Obama called her in recent days, saying the president may honor Dickmyer in remarks on Memorial Day. Increasingly skeptical American and Afghan publics question why U.S. and NATO forces remain there. The Taliban recently begun its spring offensive, as suicide bombings, roadside explosions and attacks in remote posts have returned with a frightening regularity.

"You don't get used to it because you're in a war zone," said civilian corps worker George S. Triggs, 54, of Louisville, Kentucky. "You learn to tolerate it and do the best you can."

Yet the worst stress, some acknowledged, is that of family members waiting at home for their loved ones to return. Lt. Col. Jon Chytka, 44, of Tabor, South Dakota recounted having to explain to his 5-year-old daughter why he had to leave. □



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Visiting Joplin, Obama offers familiar message of comfort

A.G. SULZBERGER

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JOPLIN, Mo. — A week ago the Missouri Southern State University campus here was rich with celebration and smiles as the graduating seniors of the public high school paraded across stage to grasp their diplomas. Within hours, a third of the town was destroyed — including Joplin High School — and scores of residents were dead, at least one of the newly minted graduates among them.

On Sunday, the campus was filled with the grief of a community that for the first time paused from its digging to take collective note of what had been lost when a tornado of record proportions in carnage upended the heart of the city.

There was the Rev. Aaron Brown, pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, now a skeletal house of worship stripped of walls and ceiling, who talked about his memories of the frantic aftermath: running and digging and hoping and praying. There was Jay Nixon, governor of Missouri, speaking of the "destructive power of nature and the invincible power of faith."



President Barack Obama greets residents on a tour of the damage caused by a tornado in Joplin, Mo., on May 29, 2011. Obama is scheduled to meet with survivors of the tornado that ravaged the city on May 22 and will speak at a Joplin community memorial service at Missouri Southern State University for the more than 130 people who were killed.

Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times

And there, too, was President Barack Obama, who in an emotive, occasionally rousing speech peppered with religious imagery and pledges of national solidarity, praised the residents of Joplin for coming together in the face of tragedy. "The cameras may leave. The spotlight may shift. But we will be with you every step of the way until Joplin is restored," the president said, bringing a round of applause from the audience. "We're not

going anywhere. That is not just my promise; that's America's promise."

The community memorial service fell on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, and it marked the deadliest tornado in what has been the deadliest tornado season in the 60 years that records have been kept.

Of the more than 520 people confirmed killed by tornados

so far this year, about 140 lived here, in a city of fewer than 50,000 residents. Officials said that 43 residents remained unaccounted for on Sunday afternoon.

For Obama, it was the third time in about a month that he has traveled into the heartland to offer comfort and support for people grappling to overcome a natural disaster. In late April, the president went

to Tuscaloosa, Ala., after tornadoes savaged that city and other parts of the South, and just over two weeks later, in Memphis, he viewed the swollen Mississippi River, whose overflowing banks and tributaries caused catastrophic flooding along a swath of the country.

"The question that weighs on us at a time like this is: Why?" Obama said on Sunday. □

U.S. to nominate adviser to be ambassador to Russia

PETER BAKER

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has decided to send the architect of his so-called Russia reset policy to Moscow as the next United States ambassador there, seeking to further bolster an improved relationship. Obama plans to nominate Michael McFaul, his top White House adviser on Russia policy, for the post, according to administration officials who declined to be identified before the formal announcement. Obama told the Russian president, Dmitry A. Medvedev, of his choice during a meeting in France last week, officials said.

In selecting McFaul, Obama is breaking with recent tradition in Moscow, where all but one of eight American ambassadors over the last 30 years have been career diplomats. But in choosing someone from his own inner circle, Obama underscored his determination to keep Russian-American relations a centerpiece of his foreign policy after his early push to reset the relationship following years of growing tension.

"Mike, as the guy who really helped the president establish the reset, is the perfect person to go to Moscow to make sure there's no lapse in momentum in the relationship," one of the administration officials said. □



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Harvested in Aruba

Palin makes celebrity entrance in D.C., on back of a Harley

Continued from Front Page

And then, suddenly, there she was: Palin, with her husband, Todd, and the rest of the family. Wearing matching black Harley-Davidson helmets, they road motorcycles toward the front of the procession through a crush of cameramen, photographers, reporters and leather-clad bikers, all jostling for just a peek at the woman who might be president. A traditional political appearance, it was not. She did not make any public remarks or shake hands with dignitaries. There was no news release accompanying her visit. And after the short ride to the National Mall – she rode on the back of a volunteer's bike – she sped off in a black sport utility vehicle to points unknown to anyone outside her small circle, even to the reporters covering her. Palin's visit here – to start her still-mysterious One Nation



Sarah Palin, former GOP vice presidential candidate and Alaska governor, rides on the back of a motorcycle at the Rolling Thunder annual motorcycle rally, past the U.S. Capitol during the Memorial Day weekend in Washington, May 29, 2011.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

bus tour along the East Coast – provided no clarity about whether she will run for the Republican presidential nomination this year. But it did reinforce the idea that if she

does, her campaign will not be conducted in the usual way. Indeed, the appearance offered a study in contrasts between Palin and her would-be Republican rivals, who, as she

rumbled through Washington clad in black leather, did the things that candidates for president usually do.

Tim Pawlenty, former governor of Minnesota, appeared

on the ABC program "This Week," dressed for the part: navy suit, pressed white shirt, light-blue tie. He said the usual things about policies and positions, praising the House Republican budget and insisting that the nation face its debt problem head-on. "I don't think we should raise the debt ceiling," Pawlenty told the program's host, Christiane Amanpour. "And if the Congress moves in that direction," he said, "they better get something really good for it. It better be permanent, and it better be structural, like a balanced budget amendment and like permanent caps and limits on spending that are specific."

Jon M. Huntsman Jr., former governor of Utah who is also considering a jump into the presidential race, recently took a textbook swing through New Hampshire, stopping at the gun shops that politicians like to visit. □

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2 dead, 21 injured in Washington state bus crash



In this image provided by the Washington State Patrol a tour bus carrying fans home from a soccer game lies on its side after crashing into a disabled pickup on the shoulder of Interstate 90 in central Washington Saturday evening, May 28, 2011 triggering a three-vehicle crash that killed two people and injured up to 15 others, authorities said. The bus carrying about 15 passengers was en route from Seattle, where the soccer game was held, to Moses Lake in Grant County.

(AP Photo/Scott Martin - Washington State Patrol)

CLE ELUM, Washington (AP) — A bus carrying soccer fans forced one car off the road and then slammed into a disabled pickup truck on the shoulder of Interstate 90 in central Washington state, killing two people and injuring 21 others, authorities said. The bus careened onto its side after hitting the truck after 6 p.m. Saturday, said Washingt-

ton State Patrol Lt. Scott Martin. The crash occurred near the town of Cle Elum, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) east of Seattle. Two people on the bus were killed: Ciro R. Astudillo, 51, and Virginia Ocamposoriano, 45, both of Pasco. The bus was returning to eastern Washington following an exhibition soccer match between Mexico and Ecuador

in Seattle on Saturday. As the driver, identified as Elmer Schuman, 67, changed from the right lane into the left lane, the bus forced a Hyundai Elantra off the road into the median, where it overturned and came to a stop, the

State Patrol said in a news release. A woman and a toddler in the Elantra suffered minor injuries. The bus then veered back to the right, striking the disabled pickup. The truck's driver, Jeffrey R. Irmer, 24, of Spokane was standing out-

side the truck when the bus slammed into it. The accident broke Irmer's leg and he was flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, where a nursing supervisor said he was in satisfactory condition Sunday. □

Newest US aircraft carrier to be named "Kennedy"

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia (AP) — Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus says the next U.S. aircraft carrier will be named the John F. Kennedy. Mabus announced the honor Sunday in memory of the 35th president. The nuclear-powered ship will be built at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. Mabus said the naming of the next Gerald R. Ford-class carrier in Kennedy's honor pays tribute to the late president's service in the Navy. As commander of PT 109, Kennedy led his crew to safety after his ship was struck and split in half by a Japanese ship in the Pacific. Kennedy received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for the rescue of his crew and a Purple Heart. This will be the second aircraft carrier named after Kennedy. The USS John F. Kennedy was decommissioned in 2007. □

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Doctors, historically Republican, soften on Obama laws

GARDINER HARRIS

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AUGUSTA, Maine — With Republicans in complete control of Maine's state government for the first time since 1962, state Sen. Lois A. Snowe-Mello offered a bill in February to limit doctors' liability that she was sure the powerful doctors' lobby would cheer. Instead, it asked her to shelve the measure.

"It was like a slap in the face," said Snowe-Mello, who describes herself as a conservative Republican. "The doctors in this state are increasingly going left."

Doctors were once overwhelmingly male and usually owned their own practices. They generally favored lower taxes and regularly fought lawyers to restrict patient lawsuits. Ronald Reagan came to

national political prominence in part by railing against "socialized medicine" on doctors' behalf.

But doctors are changing. They are abandoning their own practices and taking salaried jobs in hospitals, particularly in the North, but increasingly in the South as well. Half of all younger doctors are women, and that share is likely to grow.

There are no national surveys that track doctors' political leanings, but as more doctors move from business owner to shift worker, their historic alliance with the Republican Party is weakening from Maine as well as South Dakota, Arizona and Oregon, according to doctors' advocates in those and other states.

That change could have a profound effect on the nation's health care debate. Indeed, after opposing almost every major health overhaul



Gordon Smith, executive vice president of the Maine Medical Association, right, testifies on behalf of Maine Medical in Augusta, Maine, March 22, 2011. As more doctors move from shopkeeper to shift-worker, their historic alliance with the Republican Party is weakening from Maine to South Dakota and from Arizona to Oregon, according to doctors' advocates in those and other states.

(Craig Dilger/The New York Times)

proposal for nearly a century, the American Medical Association supported President Barack Obama's legislation last year because the new law would provide health insurance to the vast majority of the nation's uninsured, improve competition and choice in insurance, and promote prevention and wellness, the group said.

Because so many doctors are no longer in business for themselves, many issues that were once priorities for doctors' groups, like insurance reimbursement, have been displaced by public health and safety concerns, including mandatory seat belt use and environmental concerns like chemicals in baby products.

Even the issue of liability, while still important to the AMA and many of its state affiliates, is losing some of its unifying power because malpractice insurance is generally

provided when doctors join hospital staffs.

"It was a comfortable fit 30 years ago representing physicians and being an active Republican," said Gordon H. Smith, executive vice president of the Maine Medical Association. "The fit is considerably less comfortable today." Smith, 59, should know. The child of a prominent Republican family, he canvassed for Barry Goldwater in 1964, led the state's Youth for Nixon and College Republicans chapters, served on the Republican National Committee and proudly called himself a Reagan Republican — one reason he got the job in 1979 representing the state's doctors' group.

But doctors in Maine have abandoned the ownership of practices en masse, and their politics and points of view have shifted dramatically. The Maine doctors' group once opposed health insurance man-

dates because they increase costs to employers, but it now supports them, despite Republican opposition, because they help patients.

Three years ago, Smith found himself leading an effort to preserve a beverage tax — a position anathema to his old allies at the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Republican Party but supported by doctors because it paid for a health program. The doctors lost by a wide margin, and the tax was overturned.

Smith still goes to the state Capitol wearing gray suits, black wingtips and a gold name badge, but he increasingly finds himself among allies far more casually dressed, including the Maine People's Alliance and labor groups. And while he still greets old Republican friends — he is a lobbyist, after all — he spends much of his time strategizing with Democrats. □

Pastor looks ahead after settling lawsuits

ERRIN HAINES,
Associated Press

LITHONIA, Georgia (AP)

— The crowd still cheered for Bishop Eddie Long as he took the pulpit Sunday, but gone was the air of defiance that defined his appearance eight months ago when he rallied his congregation to battle amid lawsuits accusing the megachurch pastor of sexual misconduct.

Just days after settling the lawsuits filed by four young men who used to attend New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, the message was one of progress and prosperity to the several hundred gathered. The choir opened the two-hour 8 a.m. service with the gospel hymn "Moving Forward," which began: "I'm not going back, I'm moving ahead. Here to declare to you my past is over." Long addressed a far smaller group than the one gathered back in September, when he compared himself to the Bible's ultimate underdog and vowed to fight like David versus Goliath against accusations that he abused his spiritual authority and coerced four young men into sexual relationships with gifts including cars, cash and travel.

Then, thousands of supporters and observers packed the 10,000-seat sanctuary, which took on the atmosphere of an arena.

After Sunday's opening hymn, the service was decidedly focused on the church, not its controversial leader. □

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SAN NICOLAS - The 11th Annual Soul Beach Music Festival 2011 was the most electrifying music festival event of the year. The 2011 Soul Beach Music Festival kicked-off Memorial Day Weekend, in Aruba's sun-kissed paradise, with five-days of power-packed events. Soul Music Lovers from around the world and took part in amped-up nightclubs, sizzling beach parties, music and comedy concerts. The 11th Anniversary of the Soul Beach Music Festival was more spectacular than ever!!!! The Soul Beach Music Festival is an annual event that has been taking place for the past 10 years during Memorial Day Weekend in May. The event that has everything you would want -- great people, warm sun, beautiful beaches, hot parties, and outstanding performances by the best in comedy and soul music.

The 6 days event took place Joe Laveist Sportspark San Nicolas, with performance from Jennifer Hudson, Chrisette Michele, Bobby Brown, Ralph Tresvant & Johnny Gill (Heads of State).

Tonight the party continues at Moomba Beach

with Popular musician Juni Juliet coming to Aruba for a special performance as part of the Soul Beach Festival events that are holding the island in thrall. On Monday, May 30, he is performing at MooMba Beach, where he will be singing and playing the piano from 7 to 10 pm. The man from Curaçao is a virtual musical centipede, having been in show business since he was 7 years old. During that time he played the mandolin; a weekly Saturday show on television made him a local tv star. With his four brothers Juni traveled throughout South America, performing in television programs. They were called 'Tipico Juliet'. By the time he was 11, Juni started singing, playing the guitar, bass guitar, piano, organ and percussion. In 1977 he went solo, attending various prestigious festivals and winning prizes. Nowadays he is active as a singer and piano player, drawing large audiences wherever he goes. His voice is mesmerizing.

The Juni Juliet concert at MooMba Beach is free of charge. Just come and be bowled over. □

From Albuquerque to Aruba

John & Kellie enjoy their engagement in the sand



ARUBA- On May 24, 2011, John Thomas & Kellie Timberlake enjoyed a fabulous vacation in Aruba to celebrate their engagement. John & Kellie met at the University of Maryland, College Park. They were friends throughout the college years and then went separate ways. Throughout the years Kellie tried so hard to find John, but no luck, until one day Kellie received a friend request on Facebook. John who lives in Arizona met Kellie in

Maryland and enjoyed their first date at Obrycki's Crab House & Seafood Restaurant.

They soon started dating and within four months John knew he found his forever love. The day after Christmas 2010, while Kellie was cooking breakfast, John came up to her and said, "You forgot to open one of your presents," To her surprise John proposed at that moment to become Mrs. Kellie Thomas. The lovebirds stayed at Divi Dutch

Village for one week. John visited the island last year and fell in love with "One Happy Island" and wanted to share it with Kellie. John & Kellie wanted to capture the Aruba moments; Bella Aruba Photography took the couple on an island excursion to have an evening at sunset photo shoot. They will be wed on September 3, 2011 in their home town and will be enjoying their honeymoon in Lisbon, Portugal.

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



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At Tierra del Sol

Heritage Cup by Boolchand's concludes the first round



TIERRA DEL SOL – After the first Leg of five events, says Adam Williamson, Head Professional, Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club, Aruba, the Heritage Cup started out with a huge clump of ties for second place with a score of 37 stableford points, and one little man sitting at the top with 38. Jan Roeloffsvalk takes the first event awarding him 500 cup points and the lead. The Champion of the 2009 Heritage Cup Stalin Tullod, is back in the swing of things and is among the 4 tied for 2nd place. Also last year's defending champion, Maurice DeLisle who won 3 of the 5 event in 2010 including the final, is next in line at 6th place, just two shots off the mark for yet another victory. "I think it is fair to say that we are going to be seeing good golf the next few weeks," concluded Williamson.

Aruba's championship golf-

course, Tierra Del Sol, hosted the first of five Heritage Cup by Boolchand's events, this past Saturday. The prizes for the winners of the five rounds will be sponsored by Boolchand's in the form of oversize, stylish TW Steel watches. The first event started at 10:30 am with a spot of breakfast to go, at Tierra del Sol Golf Course, and after playing 18 holes, golfers met at Buster's Garage at the South Beach centre for the award ceremony, snacks and the Champions League Final BARCELONA vs. MANCHESTER UNITED. Williamson, conducted the award ceremony in which Jan Roeloffsvalk, won a TW Steel watch as the winner of the day, with Stalin Tullod, Michael v/d Hofstede, Jose Rodriguez and Shine Helmen, leading in the Stableford point standing. Additional winners for the day, nearest to hole # 7 & 13 Axl Ismail, nearest to hole #15, Jose Rodriguez and nearest to hole #17 Stallin Tullod winning gift certificates by Ventanas del Mar, Da Vinci, Amadeus, Body & Soul Spa and Buster's Garage. □



Renaissance Mall is brimming with new 'Shopportunities'

ORANJESTAD - Located at the heart of Oranjestad, the Renaissance Mall is famous for its upscale stores and boutiques. Joining the outstanding collection of stylish and contemporary stores Adolfo Dominguez, a Spanish designer whose origins go back to the 1950s, to a tailor's shop set up by Adolfo Domínguez Senior. In 1973, with the opening of his first retail store, which initially focused on tailored suits, the corner-stone of today's fashion empire was laid. Over the years, Adolfo Domínguez launched a range of new product lines, including fragrances, and his innovative designs placed his name at the forefront of the revolution of Spain's fashion, promoting ready-to-wear urban styles, with stores in Madrid and Barcelona. In 1985 the designer presented his first women's collection on the Paris catwalks, and this marked the start of the firm's international expansion, which has taken his collections all over Europe, Japan, America and South-East Asia, and now to Aruba to the Renaissance Mall.

The Adolfo Dominguez brand embraces design, production and distribution through an extensive network of the

company's own stores and franchises, all linked by means of a state-of-the-art computer system.

The store in Aruba is custom designed by the Spanish mother-firm which manufactured all displays and custom created anything from lamp shades to shelves. The store stocks both the men's and the women's lines including gorgeous shoes and handbags, beautiful jewelry and accessories, and mostly impressive, elegant clothes at affordable prices.

Another new store which needs no introduction is a double space for Crocs, a shoe manufacturer who has sold millions of flip-flops, clogs, sandals, boots, and slides, in rainbow colors, since 2004, when three friends from Canada started to produce and distribute a foam clog design acquired from another company called Foam Creations. The shoe had originally been developed as a spa product. The first model produced by Crocs, the Beach, was unveiled in 2002 at the Ft Lauderdale boat show, and sold out the 200 pairs available at that time.

The store at the Renaissance Mall has a great selection for men, women and kids

including sneakers and the latest translucent shoes for ladies, designed to brighten the Summer up, also Croc Chameleons which change colors in the sun.

And as if this is not enough, the mall just recently unveiled EPK, an original concept store innovating fashion for children by offering adult-styled clothing and accessories for babies and children up to 12 years old. Manufactured in excellent quality and inspired by the latest global trends, the clothes are designed in France, and sold in Aruba at very competitive prices.

Another recent addition to the mall is the Aruba In Style 2011 office, promoting Aruba's first fashion week. The runways here, promise to burst into fire as the hottest designs, fashions and models show their work to date, November 3rd to 6th, 2011. Guests and locals are invited to visit the office for more information about the fashion extravaganza, produced locally, and headquartered at the Renaissance Mall.

Adding to the excitement in the mall, a unique cultural exhibit by the National Archeological Museum offered in collaboration with Meta Corp.,



the mall's parent company.

Titled O Aruba, the exhibit's name echoes some of the lyrics of the island's national anthem 'O Aruba, nos Baranca ta stima,' which declares the love of the singer to this small, much-appreciated rock.

The meaningful expo was put together in honor of Aruba's 25th anniversary of Status Aparte, the island's unique status within the Dutch Kingdom, and in honor of the national anthem's 35th anniversary. The central theme of the exhibit is creativity, as it finds expression in Aruba's prehistoric times, and how the island's special ingenuity has served it through the years and into the future. □

The panels hanging overhead were created in English & Papiamento featuring some of the museum treasures of Amerindian artifacts, from tools to jewelry, celebrating the island's rich heritage and inviting the public at large to further explore the subject by visiting the National Archeological Museum in the heart of town.

Visit the Renaissance Mall in Oranjestad, now featuring extended shopping hours, and its twin-sister the Renaissance Marketplace, 10am to 8pm. www.shoprenaissancearuba.com. The countdown for the opening of the brand new Coach mega-store is on, at the end of the Summer. □

Tuscany Residence Aruba delivers luxury living



PALM BEACH – The new residential project now under construction in the Noord area, the island's best neighborhood, just across the Ritz Carlton site, brings luxury Island living to a new level.

Within the walls of the residence, 78 comfortable apartments, 65 interconnected villas and 10 detached villas will be built.

The buildings vary greatly in layout, as the project offers no less than twenty-four different models to choose from.

Beautiful Italian architecture combined with tropical landscaping, will create a pleasant Mediterranean atmosphere in the residence, located just 600 meters from the beach, and adjacent to the Bakval neighborhood. And Arno kitchen & Banjolux bathrooms will carry that luxurious theme on to the interiors.

Toscana Development NV in-

vites you to visit the project at South Beach Centre, second floor sales offices. To help you find the home that fits your lifestyle, a friendly and experienced sales team has been hand-picked to accommodate buyers. At the helm Ricardo Chumaceiro, Sales and Marketing Director which requires no introduction as he has been involved with real estate over an extended period of time, having been recruited by Tierra Del Sol from the Marriott Vacation Club and from Tierra del Sol, by Toscana Development NV, the local developer of Tuscany Residence Aruba.

Ricardo is fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Papiamento, Dutch, Italian and French and is as accommodating as he is charming, picking up guests for a tour at their hotel, and bringing them back at the end of a much-enjoyed presentation.

Sales Executive Oscar Janga's background is also diverse having worked for the Marriott Vacation Club for six years, as well as for Costa Linda Beach Resort in its successful heyday. Oscar, a Flight Instructor by profession was trained in the USA, and was a proud pilot for Air Aruba when the fondly-remembered airline serviced Aruba's many destinations in the 90s. Flying for Air Aruba for more than 7 years prepared Oscar for his Tuscany Residence Aruba assignment, appreciating the boutique feel and the intimate Mediterranean atmosphere offered by the development's 153 homes, away from mass overcrowding, favoring the small to medium growth over dense expansion.

Sales Executive Marisol Quijada brings her quadri-lingual sales experience to work every day. With an extensive sales and marketing background Marisol



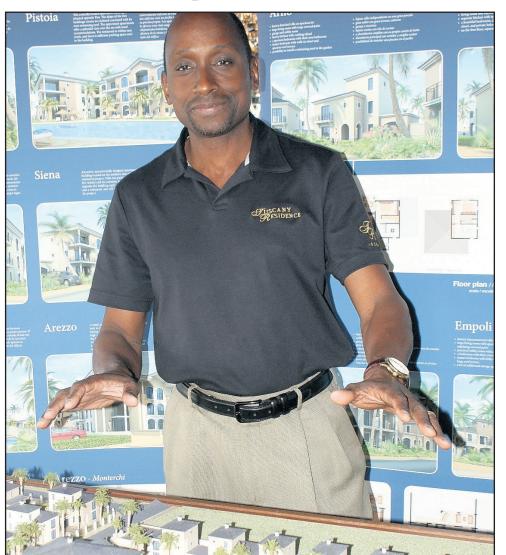
is in possession of an in-depth understanding of the local and Latin markets. She was recruited to the project by management, who immediately recognized her excellent people skills and her quiet and assured presence.

Sales and Marketing Assistant Carina Zimmerman, fluent in multiple languages, and blessed with enthusiasm and rich and varied business experience, is also a member of the sales team. She was one of the first to join Tuscany Residence Aruba, focusing on customer service and long-term relationships with prospective clients. Supporting the sales team with technical construction knowledge, Project Manager, Reinier Kooi, an engineer by profession. Reinier has been part of the project for the past four years, living and breathing every phase, ensuring quality and

attention to detail, and adherence to Toscana Development standards and requirements. It's his second construction project on Aruba, and he is very familiar with the culture and workmanship on the island.

Ricardo and his crew report that Tuscany Residence Aruba has enjoyed an unprecedented reception and indications are that this trend will continue through the sell-out phase of the project. The project is currently fully fenced after the land was cleared last year, two model houses are under construction, and have reached the ring beam. The topping of the roof celebration is expected within two months. With all infrastructures for utilities complete and the terrain parceled and marked, Tuscany Residence is gearing up to move the sales gallery from the South Beach Centre to the site by high-season of 2011.

Visit the sales gallery, any day, seven days a week, just call for an appointment and free pick up, or ask your favorite broker to help get you there. Tuscany Residence Aruba apartments and villas are offered at pre-construction prices, for a while longer, and while the world is recovering from the recent economic decline, Aruba's real estate market continues to offer great investment opportunities to those prepared to take the plunge, and go ahead and live their dreams. □



Happy Birthday Cornelia at Amazonia Churrascaria



Aruba Airport Authority N.V.

AAA is ready for 2011 hurricane season



Andry Lopez, John Becker, Chito Geerman, Eric Martijn, Emily Ras, Suzanne Garcia, Harold Webb.

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA), who manages Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix, has an important task during the hurricane season, since the fact that Aruba has only one airport and one runway.

Although Aruba lies at the fringes of the hurricane belt, nature has still proven to be unpredictable despite of all the advanced technology that we have today to predict and monitor natural disasters.

In case of a hurricane hit, the first international help will arrive by air and therefore we need to take all necessary precaution to minimize damage to our airport facilities.

The hurricane season starts every year on June 1 and ends on November 30.

At AAA, a specific work-group, named the Hurricane Preparedness Working Group (HPWG), consisting of members from all units of the AAA

organization has the task to take all preventive actions according to the Hurricane Preparedness Plan. The Airside Safety Management Unit is in charge of the annual update of the Hurricane Preparedness Plan with the sole aim to safeguard the airport facilities for possible hurricane hit during aforementioned period.

Last week the chairman of the HPWG met with the members to review the manual and to start the preparations for the hurricane season. An important task of this group is the monitoring of current weather in our area and to inform AAA's management team of approaching bad weather and to activate the Hurricane Plan. According to the chairman, Mr. Eric Martijn, Head Airside Safety Management Unit, in the last 7 years the plan was activated only once in which our airport was closed due to safety precaution. □

Palm Beach – The 75th birthday of the beautiful and charming Cornelia Biesum took place at Amazonia Churrascaria, where her loved ones including four grown children, eight grandchildren, two brothers, and the rest of the extended family, enjoyed each other's company and Amazonia Churrascaria's famed hospitality. The party included more than 50 people, and

also featured a lovely tiered and frosted white birthday cake with a 75 emblem in Cornelia's favorite Bordeaux color.

Amazonia Churrascaria carvers and waiters flaunted their new look with new uniforms, in fire-engine red, adding a festive and exciting touch to the festivities. □



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Yemeni forces battle militants for southern town

N. ARRABYEE

L. KASINO

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SANA, Yemen — Islamist militants battled Yemeni security forces in the southern province of Abyan on Sunday even as the government struck a deal for a cease-fire in the capital, Sanaa, with its tribal rivals, bringing relative calm here after days of fierce fighting. In Sanaa, Yemeni officials said President Ali Abdullah had agreed to a truce with his historic tribal rivals the Ahmar family. Violence broke out between the two sides last Monday after Saleh refused to follow through on his promise to sign an agreement leading to his resignation.

“There is a truce, and it is still holding,” said Abdul Karim Aleryani, prominent governing party official and adviser to Saleh. However, other of-

ministries one by one gradually,” said Hashem al-Ahmar, one of the 10 Ahmar brothers, told reporters on Sunday. However, a spokesperson for Sheik Sadiq al-Ahmar, Abdulkawi Qaisi, told local reporters that the Ahmars will fully comply with a cease-fire only if the government removes its security forces from their posts in houses near the Ahmar compound in the Hasaba district in northern Sanaa.

In Taiz, a central city and home of the country’s largest demonstration, security forces fired at protesters from a government building on Sunday, killing four, according to a local doctor, Abdul Rahim al-Samie. He said he still heard gunshots coming from the building until the evening.

In Abyan, a volatile province in southern Yemen, Yemeni security forces started shell-

speakers blaring, “We declare that Zinjibar fell in the hands of Mujahideen after it was liberated from the agents of the Americans.”

It was unclear whether militants, who traveled from Jaar to Zinjibar, belong to al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the local branch of the international terrorist network; however, the area is filled with citizens who are sympathetic to al-Qaida. The terrorist organization has used the lack of rule of law in Abyan, the volatile southern Yemeni province, to raise its profile, and the fighting in Zinjibar was another example militants in outlying provinces exploiting the chaos in Yemen to advance their causes. Militants took over the nearby city of Jaar in March and in the north Houthi rebels established themselves as the rulers of Saada province the



In this citizen journalism image made on a mobile phone and provided by Shaam News Network made available May 29, Syrian anti-regime protesters carry banners during a rally in Talbiseh, in the central province of Homs, Syria. Syrian government troops backed by tanks attacked Sunday, May 29, Rastan and Talbiseh, two central towns that have seen intense protests against President Bashar Assad’s regime leaving at least two people dead and several wounded, activists and a rights group said. The Arabic writing on banners read: “martyrdom and victory, leave”, “al-Naim tribe wants to drop the regime,” “our demands are clear, to drop Assad’s criminal regime, dissolve the outdated Baath Party.”

(AP Photo/Shaam News Network)



Armed Yemeni Tribesmen gather outside the Ministry of Local Administration in Sanaa, Yemen, Sunday, May 29, 2011. Yemen’s embattled president and the country’s most powerful tribal leader have agreed to end five days of gun battles that killed scores of people and pushed the country’s political crisis closer to civil war.

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

ficials described the truce as tenuous and far from set in stone.

Still, after more than 100 people were killed in fighting last week, there were tangible signs of a reduction in tensions.

Tribesmen from the Hashid tribal confederation loyal to the Ahmar family began Sunday to hand over to authorities government buildings that they had occupied last week. “We will hand over the other

ing the coastal city of Zinjibar after several hundred militants took over government institutions there on Friday, residents said. A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media, said that five soldiers had been killed in the fighting there since Friday. The militants took over banks, government offices and security headquarters, residents said. They also said that the militants had been driving around the city in cars with loud-

same month after government officials fled the area. However, protesters and members of Yemen’s opposition blame the fighting in Zinjibar on Saleh, who they believe is orchestrating the chaos so that he will not have to leave office.

“Saleh instructed to hand over Zinjibar to armed groups working for him to frighten others that if he is gone Yemen will become Somalia,” said former minister of defense Abdullah Ali Eliwa, in a televised press statement. □

AP Exclusive:

Syria to end nuclear secrecy

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a major turnaround, Syria is pledging full cooperation with U.N. attempts to probe strong evidence that it secretly built a reactor that could have been used to make nuclear arms, according to a confidential document shared with The Associated Press.

If Syria fulfills its promise, the move would end three years of stonewalling by Damascus of the International Atomic Energy. Since 2008, the agency has tried in vain to follow up on strong evidence that a target bombed in 2007 by Israeli warplanes was a nearly built nuclear reactor that would have produced plutonium once active.

Syria’s sudden readiness to cooperate seems to be an attempt at derailing U.S.-led attempts to have Damascus referred to the U.N. Security Council amid already strong international pressure on the Syrian leadership to end its crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

An IAEA report last week said the Vienna-based agency “assesses that the building destroyed ... was a nuclear reactor” — the finding sought by Washington and its allies to push to have Syria reported to the council by a 35-nation IAEA board meeting next month.

That, in turn, apparently triggered Syria’s decision to compromise.

In a confidential note sent Friday to board members, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano cites top Syrian nuclear agency officials as saying “we are ready to fully cooperate with the agency” on its probe of the suspect site. Amano said the pledge was contained in a letter dated Thursday — two days after his agency delivered its assessment.

But Washington is continuing its push. It has put forward a restricted draft of a resolution to be voted on at the 35-nation IAEA board meeting beginning June 6 that — if passed — would report Syria to the U.N. Security Council for violating the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The draft, which also was made available to the AP on Sunday, notes “with serious concern” Syria’s refusal to allow IAEA inspectors follow-up visits to the bombed site after the one they made in 2008. As a consequence, the board “decides to report ... Syria’s noncompliance” with its NPT commitments,” says the document. □

Sudan threatens to invade 2 more disputed regions

J. GETTELMAN

J. KRON

© 2011 New York Times

JUBA, Sudan — The northern Sudanese army is threatening to seize two more areas along the combustible north-south border, risking war just weeks before southern Sudan is due to split off as an independent country, Western and Sud-

nese officials said Sunday.

Tensions shot up last week when northern forces stormed into Abyei, the capital of a contested region that straddles the border and is claimed by both the government of Khartoum in northern Sudan and the breakaway region of southern Sudan.

Now, according to a letter



In this photo provided by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), homesteads continue to burn in the center of Abyei town, Sudan Sunday, May 29, 2011. Tens of thousands of Sudanese are fleeing from the contested north-south border region of Abyei, and the top U.S. official in the region warned of a humanitarian crisis over the north's invasion.

(AP Photo/UNMIS, Stuart Price)

from the Sudanese military's plans to take over Blue Nile high command, the northern and South Kordofan states, army, in the next few days, two disputed areas with a long

history of conflict that are still heavily armed. Analysts, local leaders and Western diplomats fear that if the northern army carries through on its threat to push out or forcibly disarm the thousands of fighters allied to the south in these two areas, a conflict could erupt and set off a much bigger clash between the northern and southern armies, who have been building up their arsenals for years in anticipation of war. Malik Agar, Blue Nile's governor, said Sunday night that northern forces had recently moved "dangerously close" to the bases of southern-allied fighters and that he didn't think the southern forces would surrender. □

Afghan official says NATO airstrike killed 14 civilians

Continued from Front Page

The governor's office released photographs of men carrying the dusty, bruised bodies of dead children swaddled in sheets into the hospital.

"We brought the dead bodies to show it to the officials, to show that the dead are innocent civilians, not the Taliban," Janan said. Lt. Tyler Balzer, a spokesman for the NATO-led military coalition, said several bombs were dropped but said he could not provide more specifics, including what kind of aircraft were used, until the investigation was complete. "We are aware of the governor's claims and there were airstrikes in the area," he said, "and right now we have an assessment team on the ground working with the Afghan government."

Local officials said the air-strike came in response to an insurgent attack on a nearby American Marine base earlier in the night, but that the strike hit the wrong homes.

NATO was also investigating an air assault last week in Nuristan Province that drove out Taliban fighters after they had overrun part of a district center. A joint force of NATO soldiers and Afghan commandos called in airstrikes Wednesday when they came

under fire in the district center of Do Ab. The airstrikes drove hundreds of insurgents out of the town and killed more than 10 of them, NATO said then. But provincial officials now say that NATO helicopters also killed more than 20 police officers dressed in civilian clothes. Qazi Anayatullah, head of the provincial council, said that as coalition forces arrived, the Taliban fled, leaving their white flags flying over police checkpoints they had overrun. When the officers in civilian clothes re-entered the checkpoints, the Taliban flags were still flying, and NATO helicopters bombed them, he said. "They mistakenly thought they were Taliban because the police were wearing local dress," Anayatullah said. Another local official said the police officers had changed into civilian clothes after the initial Taliban assault, hoping to avoid capture. Balzer said a NATO assessment team had been in Do Ab for several days. "We're hoping a clearer picture will come out soon and we'll be able to release the findings," he said. But the incident points to the murky nature of the war and the difficulty distinguishing between Taliban fighters and armed officers or civilians dressed in traditional garb. □

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Pro-Mladic demonstrators rally against his extradition

STEVEN ERLANGER

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BELGRADE, Serbia – Groups of youths throwing stones and bottles clashed with riot police Sunday evening in Belgrade after thousands of Serbian nationalists rallied outside Parliament against the arrest and extradition of Ratko Mladic, the former Serbian military commander facing war-crimes charges in The Hague for atrocities committed during the 1990s Balkans conflict.

An estimated 10,000 protesters came out on a balmy evening to demand the resignation of the Serbian president, Boris Tadic, whom they called a traitor to Serbia for his willingness to hand over alleged war criminals to the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

“Tadic is not Serbia” read a big banner over a stage used by the protest speakers, including Mladic’s son, Darko, who attacked what they called

the government’s efforts to placate Washington and the West by extraditing “a Serbian hero,” Mladic.

On Thursday, Serbian authorities arrested Mladic, 68, who is in poor health after nearly 16 years of life as a fugitive. A theme of the evening at the rally, held by the Serbian Radical Party, whose leader is himself in The Hague facing war-crimes charges, was “the traitor Tadic and his puppet government.” The crowd chanted for Tadic “to save Serbia and kill himself.”

But the protest was not large by Belgrade standards, and the party is on the margins, having split into two. The Serbian Progressive Party, led by Tomislav Nikolic, had no part in the demonstration and has taken the position that Serbia “must fulfill its international obligations, and one of them is the arrest of Ratko Mladic,” said the party’s deputy leader, Aleksandar Vucic.

Rioters overturned garbage



Masked supporters of Ratko Mladic face police lines after a rally turned violent in Belgrade, Serbia, on May 29, 2011. Mladic, who has been wanted as a war criminal for 15 years, is expected to be extradited to a UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague early this week.

(Andrew Testa/The New York Times)

containers, and broke traffic lights and store windows. They threw stones at the police, who responded with batons. According to the po-

lice, about 100 people were detained and a dozen suffered light injuries. But the violence was sporadic and the damage was relatively minor.

“Cooperation with The Hague tribunal represents treason,” the Serbian Radical Party official Lidija Vukicevic, an ac-

tress, told the crowd. “This is a protest against the shameful arrest of the Serbian hero.” Darko Mladic made one of the most defiant speeches, saying that his father’s “illnesses are not illnesses, but they are wounds” suffered in the defense of the Serbian people. □



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A narrative has many blanks: “Annie” meets “Aliens”

DAVID COLMAN

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NEW YORK — If eons of nature and decades of culture have made anything clear, it is that all creation is more or less a collage. You know, recombinant DNA. XX times XY. Boy meets girl. “Annie” meets “Aliens.”

“That’s what we do in an age of the mash-up,” said David Salle, whose first show of paintings in eight years is at the Mary Boone Gallery in Chelsea. “We put things next to other things.”

Since the late 1970s, Salle has perfected his own surreal brand of mash-up that one could call Dali-Pop: snippets and snapshots that, like fragments of forensic evidence, suggest a story without giving away the game.

He’s not giving it away himself, either. “Those are trade secrets!” he said, feigning outrage. Why should things, whether murder mysteries or artworks, be easily untangled? “It’s not that difficult if you look closely at the thing you’re reading,” he said. “And it feels good when you get a sense of meaning that’s hard-won. That’s what gives me the art buzz.”

No surprise, then, that the artist was hard-pressed to cite



A still life grouping in the studio of painter David Salle in New York, May 10, 2011. Since the late 1970s, Salle has perfected his own surreal brand of mash-up that one could call Dali-Pop and will have his first show of paintings in eight years at the Mary Boone Gallery in Chelsea.

(Robert Wright/The New York Times)

a single possession to exalt above others. But on a tour of his Brooklyn town house, a fragmented Sallean narrative emerged through three things he chose: a plastic anteater, a sheet metal spiral and a ceramic vase.

The anteater was a gift from a former girlfriend. “I told her this story, and she found it so funny that she got this for me,” he said. One can see why. In 1970, Salle was in his

freshman year at the California Institute of the Arts, which was then housed in a former convent in Burbank, Calif. A Kansas boy, he had never seen the ocean. When he finally drove to the beach in Santa Monica with friends, he saw something else entirely.

“As I was getting over the intense physicality of the ocean,” he said, “I look and walking down the beach is this young woman with an anteater

on a leash, just out for a walk. Needless to say, it stayed with me.”

The bizarreness of this vision was his first exposure to California counterculture. And years later, he said, it also reminded him of the 19th-century French poet Gerard de Nerval, known for walking his pet lobster, Thibault, in the Palais Royal gardens.

The second object, a coil of sheet metal, is even more of

an enigma. “I cannot remember how I got this, if someone gave it to me or I found it,” he said. He doesn’t know if it’s a piece of art, a scrap of metal or what. “I have tried to paint it several times, unsuccessfully. For a while, I couldn’t look at it. I had to put it away. There was a feeling of defeat.” Now they have a truce of sorts; it is coiled, enigmatically, on a shelf next to his bed.

The vase is its own kind of curio. An admirer of midcentury ceramics, Salle visited Rome about a decade ago with the same girlfriend. He was sure he would find some rare ceramics. “I didn’t find very much, and what I found was incredibly expensive,” he reported. But he did find one Marcello Fantoni vase and bought it.

When he and the woman broke up, he gave her the prized vase as a memento of their trip. But then, a couple of years later, the two went to Palm Springs, Calif., for a weekend, where they found another of the same Fantoni vase.

“For half the price,” Salle said dryly. Though dismayed to find that the unique vase was not, he bought it. “I love the form, vaguely in the shape of a woman,” he said. □

Slums into malls



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

© 2011 New York Times

KOLKATA, India — I first visited Kolkata, better known as Calcutta, in 1982 as a backpacking law student. I stayed at a hostel in the Howrah slums and regretted that my camera could record only images, not the equally memorable stench.

In my visits over the next 25 years, Kolkata — and much of India — seemed little changed. China, where the national bird was jokingly said to be the crane, would be transformed every year or two, while Kolkata was always the same: a decrepit city where barefoot men pulled rickshaws beside fetid canals.

That's why India has been a bit of an embarrassment for those of us who believe in democracy, especially when compared with China. The Communist Party in China did a much better job fighting poverty than democratically elected Indian governments.

India tolerated dissent, but it also tolerated inefficiency, disease and illiteracy. But after my trips to India and China this year, I think all that may be changing. Despite the global economic slowdown, India's economy is now hurtling along at more than 8 percent per year. Yep, India is now a “tiger economy.”

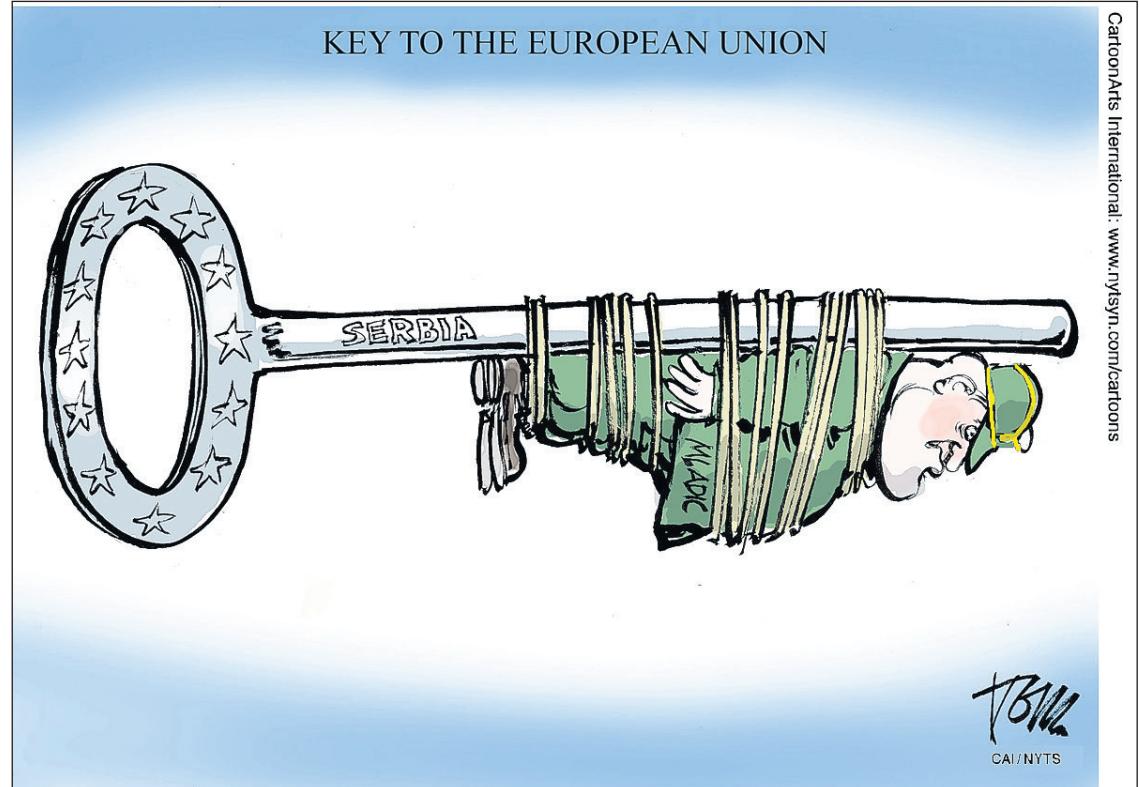
The technology zones around Bangalore in southern India have been booming for years, but what is changing is that the rise is gaining traction across the country — even here in Kolkata. It's stunning to see the new high-rise towers in Kolkata, new air-conditioned shopping malls, new infrastructure projects, new

businesses. In elections this month, the longtime Communist Party government here in the state of West Bengal was ousted, and the new chief minister is a woman and a dynamo, Mamata Banerjee. After the latest elections, she's part of a broader trend of charismatic female politicians: one-third of India's people are now ruled by chief ministers who are women.

The northern state of Bihar used to be even more of an embarrassment. For many years, gangsters played a major role in government there, and nothing worked. I once visited a health clinic in Bihar where employees dumped medicines in a pit in the ground, so they wouldn't have to dispense them. I visited a school in Bihar where teachers never bothered to show up. I visited villages where gangsters raped, robbed and ruled at their pleasure. Businesses fled, kidnapping became rampant, and Bihar seemed hopeless.

Yet Bihar has, wondrously, turned around since 2005, when a reformer named Nitish Kumar took over as chief minister. There are still enormous inefficiencies, but crime has been suppressed, corruption has diminished, and the local economy is booming at double-digit rates. And if Bihar can turn around, any Indian region can.

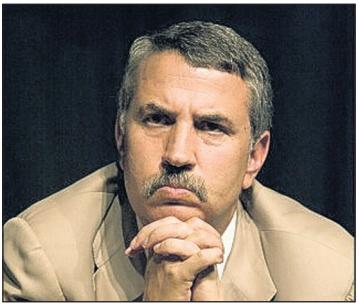
Look, India still lags far behind China, it faces risks of Pakistani extremism, it needs further economic reforms, and it too readily accepts inefficiency as the natural order of the universe. India's education and health system is a disgrace, especially in rural areas; Bangladesh does a much better job, despite being poorer. But change is in the air in India. Infant mortality is dropping, voters are pushing for better governance, and I think India has three advantages over China in their economic rivalry in the coming decades. First, India's independent news media and grass-roots civic organizations — sectors that barely exist in China — are becoming watchdogs against corruption and inefficiency. □



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Pay attention to Egypt



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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CAIRO — I had some time to kill at the Cairo airport the other day so I rummaged through the “Egyptian Treasures” shop. I didn't care much for the King Tut paper weights and ashtrays but was intrigued by a stuffed camel, which, if you squeezed its hump, emitted a camel honk. When I turned it over to see where it was manufactured, it read: “Made in China.”

Now that they have decided to put former President Hosni Mubarak on trial, I hope Egyptians add to his indictment that he presided for 30 years over a country where nearly half the population lives on \$2 a day and 20 percent are unemployed while it is importing low-wage manufactured goods — a stuffed camel, no less — from China.

That's an embarrassment for Mubarak and America, which has donated some \$30 billion in aid to modernize Egypt's economy over the last 30 years — and President Barack Obama just promised

a couple billion more. Egypt's economy has nose-dived since the uprising, and the new government really does need the money to stay afloat. But I only hope that Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton understand that right now — right this second — Egypt needs something more from Washington than money: quiet, behind-the-scenes engagement with Egypt's ruling generals over how to complete the transition to democracy here.

Here's why. After the ouster of Mubarak in February, his presidential powers were shifted to a military council, led by the defense minister. It's an odd situation, or as the Egyptian novelist Alaa Al Aswany, author of “The Yacoubian Building,” put it to me: “We have had a revolution here that succeeded — but is not in power. So the goals of the revolution are being applied by an agent, the army, which I think is sincere in wanting to do the right things, but it is not by nature revolutionary.”

To their credit, the Egyptian generals moved swiftly to put in place a pathway to democracy: elections for a new Parliament were set for September; this Parliament will then oversee the writing of a new constitution, and then a new civilian president will be elected.

Sounds great on paper, and it

was endorsed by a referendum, but there's one big problem: The Tahrir Square revolution was a largely spontaneous, bottom-up affair. It was not led by any particular party or leader. Parties are just now being formed.

If elections for the Parliament are held in September, the only group in Egypt with a real party network ready to roll is the one that has been living underground and is now suddenly legal: the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood.

“Liberal people are feeling some concerns that they made the revolution and the Muslim Brotherhood can now take it. This is not true,” Esam el-Erian, one of the party's leaders, insisted to me.

But that is exactly what the urban, secular moderates, who actually did spearhead the Tahrir revolt, fear. They are only now forming parties and trying to build networks that can reach the millions of traditional Egyptians living in the countryside and persuade them to vote for a reform agenda and not just: “Islam is the answer.”

“The liberal parties need more time to organize,” said Naguib Sawiris, an Egyptian billionaire who's heading the best organized of the liberal parties, and is urging all the liberal groups to run under a single banner and not divide their vote. □

Djokovic, Federer close to French Open showdown

Roger Federer of Switzerland greets his fans after defeating his compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka in the fourth round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday May 29, 2011. Federer won in three sets 6-3, 6-2, 7-5.

Associated Press

Page 3



SPORTS

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Monday, May 30, 2011



Keegan Bradley poses for photos with the Byron Nelson Championship trophy after winning the golf tournament in Irving, Texas, Sunday, May 29, 2011.

Associated Press

Bradley wins Byron Nelson in playoff

STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Keegan Bradley won the Byron Nelson Championship for his first PGA Tour victory, paring the first hole of a playoff with Ryan Palmer on Sunday.

Bradley, the nephew of LPGA Tour great Pat Bradley, sank a 2-foot par putt at the 419-yard 18th hole in the playoff. Palmer's approach went into the water and he made a bogey with a 13-foot putt.

About an hour earlier, Bradley finished his closing round of 2-under 68 with a par at No. 18, hopping a few times in frustration when his 10-foot birdie chance slid by the hole. Palmer (72) and Bradley finished at 3-under 277, the highest winning score on the PGA Tour this year. It was the fifth playoff in six weeks.



Continued on page B4

Wheldon wins Indy 500 after leader crashes

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — British driver Dan Wheldon claimed an improbable second Indy 500 win Sunday in his first race of the year after rookie JR Hildebrand crashed on the final turn.

Leading by almost 4 seconds with a lap to go, the 23-year-old Hildebrand skidded high into the wall within sight of the checkered flag.

"It's a helpless feeling," Hildebrand said.

Wheldon, the 2005 winner but without a full-time ride this season, appeared headed for his third straight runner-up finish when Hildebrand took the white flag needing only to make it through the last of 200 laps around the 2½-mile speedway.

The first three turns went smoothly. Then Hildebrand came up on another rookie, Charlie Kimball, in the fourth turn. Instead of backing off, Hildebrand moved to the outside to make the pass and lost control, slamming the wall to a collective gasp from the

crowd of 250,000.

"I caught him in the wrong piece of track," Hildebrand said. "I got up in the marbles and that was it."

Hildebrand's crumpled machine slid across the finish line, still hugging the wall, in second place. While Wheldon celebrated, IndyCar officials reviewed the video to see if Wheldon passed the wrecked machine before the caution lights went on. It appeared he did, giving the Brit another Indy 500 title with a part-time team.

"I just felt a lot of relief. It's an incredible feeling," Wheldon said. "I never gave up."

He took the traditional swig of milk and headed off on a triumphant lap around the speedway — a lap that Hildebrand should have been taking. Instead, the youngster stopped by the garage to get a look at his mangled car, which was hauled through Gasoline Alley instead of being wheeled into Victory Lane.

He's now in the company of athletes such as Jean Van de Velde, who squandered a



IndyCar driver Dan Wheldon, of England, kisses the yard of bricks at the start/finish line after winning the Indianapolis 500 auto race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Sunday, May 29, 2011.

Associated Press

winner Scott Dixon. But after a series of late pit stops, things really got interesting. Second-generation racer Graham Rahal spent some time up front. Danica Patrick claimed the lead but was had to stop for fuel with nine laps to go. Belgium driver Bertrand Baguette had already gotten past Patrick, but he didn't have enough fuel, either.

When Baguette went to the pits with three laps to go, the lead belonged to Hildebrand. All he had to do was make it to the end.

He came up one turn short.

"My disappointment is for the team," Hildebrand said. "We should've won the race."

Not that Wheldon isn't a deserving champ. Despite plenty of success in his IndyCar career, he lost his ride at Panther Racing — where he was replaced by Hildebrand, no less — and couldn't find a regular job this season.

He sat out the first four races of the year, then picked up a one-race deal with Bryan Herta Autosport. Surely, Wheldon will be able to find a better gig now after beating Hildebrand by 2.1 seconds with an average speed of 170.265 mph.

"Dan Wheldon, he's a great winner," Patrick said. "And what a great story. He hasn't run this year. ... That's really cool."

Still, it was a bitter disappointment for Patrick, who ended up 10th. □

Contador wraps up Giro d'Italia title

JEREMY INSON

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Alberto Contador beat his chest and celebrated with his traditional pistol shot signal as he finished the 26-kilometer individual time trial around the streets of Milan on Sunday to secure his second Giro d'Italia title.

It is a win that could preface a stellar year for the Spaniard — the Court of Arbitration for Sport permitting.

Contador is set to face CAS after he tested positive for the banned stimulant clenbuterol at the 2010 Tour de France. He was cleared of doping by the Spanish cycling federation after he blamed the result on eating contaminated beef.

Cycling's governing body and the World Anti-Doping Agency then appealed to CAS. The hearing was due to take place from June 6-8, but on Thursday CAS announced it was pushing the date back to later in the summer.

With no new date in place, there is a chance Contador could try for an unprecedented clean sweep of Giro, Tour and Vuelta a Espagna, although he was tightlipped about the possibility.

"For now I want to enjoy this win, then we'll see," he said. "I'll have to speak to the team management. I feel tired, but don't really want to think about it for now."

"My objective was to win and I want to enjoy the win. We haven't prepared for the Tour. We shall see how my recovery goes and then we will make a decision."

Contador comfortably finished in third place in the final stage to beat his closest rival, Michele Scarponi, to the pink jersey by more than six minutes.



Spain's Alberto Contador kisses the trophy after winning the 94th edition of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, in Milan, Sunday, May 29, 2011. Contador secured his second Giro d'Italia title with a comfortable third-place finish in the final stage, beating his closest rival for the pink jersey by more than six minutes.

Associated Press

The Spaniard crossed the line in Milan's Piazza del Duomo 36 seconds behind stage winner David Millar's time of 30 minutes, 13 seconds.

"It is an amazing feeling to win the Giro here today and it is a dream finale," Contador said. "My team was really supportive throughout and we didn't really have a bad day."

"It is an incredible feeling. It seemed that it was easy, but it wasn't at all and it is a special win after the short preparation that I had."

Contador, who also won the 2008 edition, finished with an overall time of 84 hours, 5 minutes, 14 seconds. He was six minutes, 10 seconds ahead of Scarponi, and also won the red jersey for points winner with a total of 202, 80 ahead of Scarponi. □

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Yankees salvage one in Seattle with 7-1 win

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — CC Sabathia allowed one run in eight innings, Andruw Jones lined a bases-clearing double to highlight the Yankees' five-run third inning, and New York avoided a three-game sweep with a 7-1 win over the Seattle Mariners on Sunday. Nick Swisher added his third homer of the season as the Yankees knocked around Seattle starter Jason Vargas and salvaged one game in the first stop of a three-city, nine-game West Coast trip.

Sabathia (6-3) was again the Yankees stopper. He won for the third time in four tries when pitching after a loss, allowing just two hits through five innings before giving up a solo homer to Seattle's Jus-

tin Smoak in the sixth inning. Swisher lined his homer in the second inning into the Yankees' bullpen to give New York an early lead for the third straight day.

But it was Jones' double off Vargas (3-3) that broke the game open.

Sabathia won his sixth straight start against the Mariners and improved to 8-1 in 11 starts at Safeco Field.

He's gone at least eight innings in his last three starts — all wins — and gave up just five hits and struck out five on Sunday.

The Yankees' big inning off Vargas started with Derek Jeter's second walk, although Jeter was later thrown out at home trying to score on Alex Rodriguez's infield grounder to third. Catcher Chris Gi-

menez made a nice play to grab a high throw from Chone Figgins and get the tag on Jeter in time.

Jeter was the second out of the inning, but Vargas' problems were just starting. Cano singled sharply to right to score Curtis Granderson and give Cano eight hits in 12 career at-bats against Vargas. Swisher then walked on a 3-2 pitch that barely missed the outside corner to load the bases.

Vargas got ahead of Jones 1-2 before Jones fouled two straight pitches.

Vargas then left a cutter over the outside corner and Jones drove it into the right field corner clearing the bases, although replays showed the inning should have ended with the Yankees ahead just 4-0.

Swisher was tagged out on the



New York Yankees' Andruw Jones hits a three-run double in the third inning of a baseball game as Seattle Mariners catcher Chris Gimenez and home plate umpire Gerry Davis look on, Sunday, May 29, 2011, in Seattle.

Associated Press

elbow by Gimenez, but home plate umpire Gerry Davis' view was blocked and called Swisher safe.

Eduardo Nunez then followed

with a triple to deep left-center and Jones trotted home before Vargas finally got out of the inning. The Yankees sent nine batters to the plate. □

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Ryan Palmer reacts to his putt on the 18th hole during the final round of the Byron Nelson Championship golf tournament in Irving, Texas, Sunday, May 29, 2011. Palmer lost in a playoff against winner Keegan Bradley.

Associated Press

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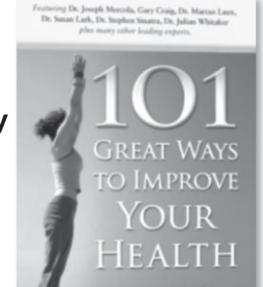
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Federer sets quarterfinal record at French Open

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Roger Federer set yet another record by reaching the French Open quarterfinals Sunday, and Novak Djokovic closed in on a pair of his own.

Federer extended his quarterfinal streak at major tournaments to 28 with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Olympic gold medal doubles partner Stanislas Wawrinka.

"Twenty-eight quarterfinals in a row, that's great," Federer said. "But that's another opportunity for me to go one step further."

Shortly after Federer's match on Court Philippe Chatrier, Djokovic maintained his perfect season and stretched his overall winning streak to 43 matches by beating Richard Gasquet of France 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

"I'm definitely playing the best tennis of my life," Djokovic said, "and I'm trying to stay focused on each

game and we'll see how far I can go."

Federer and Djokovic could meet in the semifinals.

Also Sunday, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova knocked out the highest seeded player remaining in the women's draw, beating No. 3 Vera Zvonareva 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-2 to earn a spot in the quarterfinals. Defending champion Francesca Schiavone later advanced by defeating No. 10 Jelena Jankovic 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Federer, a 16-time major champion who completed a career Grand Slam at Roland Garros in 2009, improved on the record he shared with Jimmy Connors on Court Philippe Chatrier. The last time Federer failed to reach the quarterfinals at a major was at the 2004 French Open, when he was the top-seeded player but lost to Gustavo Kuerten in the third round.

Federer again dominated with his serve Sunday. He was broken once early in the third set, but broke back twice

to remain one of four players to have won every match in straight sets.

"I was playing with the wind against me, and it was a bad game because all of a sudden there was more wind, and I had the feeling that I was playing against the wind and not against Stan," Federer said of the third set. "So in the end I made wrong decisions."

Federer also beat Wawrinka, his Davis Cup teammate, in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open. In 2008, the Swiss pair teamed up to win the doubles gold at the Beijing Olympics.

"In the third set I had a few openings, and if I had managed to serve a little better and hold on to my break, maybe anything could have happened," Wawrinka said.

Besides his record 16 major titles, Federer also set a record of 23 straight Grand Slam semifinal appearances. That run ended at last year's French Open, when he was beaten in



Vera Zvonareva of Russia gestures as she misses a return in her fourth round match against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday May 29, 2011.

Associated Press

the quarterfinals.

Federer set his quarterfinal streak in 28 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments, while Connors skipped some in his run. In the next round, Federer will face either No. 7 David Ferrer or No. 9 Gael Monfils. Their match was suspended because of darkness with Monfils leading 6-4, 2-6, 7-5, 0-2.

Djokovic is 41-0 in 2011, including a pair of clay-court final wins over top-ranked Rafael Nadal. If he beats unseeded Fabio Fognini in the quarterfinals, he will match John McEnroe's record for the best start to the season.

"To beat him you need to produce the perfect match and not make any mistakes. You need to play like Nadal, hit the ball really strong, to make him run. But only a few guys can beat him at the moment," Gasquet said. "Even Nadal struggles to organize his game when he plays against him."

With three more wins, Djokovic will equal Guillermo Vilas' overall Open era record of 46 consecutive wins.

"Actually, I think I'm playing really well at this moment," said Djokovic, whose winning streak dates back to last year's Davis Cup final. □

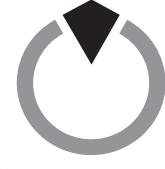
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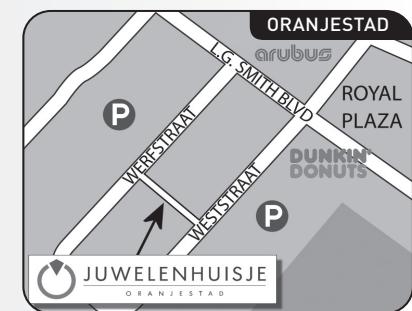
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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

UNAIDS to Vatican: Pope's HIV-condom view helpful

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The head of the U.N. AIDS agency told a Vatican conference that the pope had opened the door to greater dialogue with his groundbreaking comments on condoms and HIV prevention — even as Vatican officials stressed abstinence and marital fidelity as the best prevention. Dr. Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS, was invited to speak to the conference on preventing HIV and caring for HIV-positive people, a significant event in and of itself, given that the Vatican usually only invites like-minded outsiders to its conferences and UNAIDS has not been like-minded on this issue at all. UNAIDS holds that condoms are an “integral and essential” part of HIV prevention programs, which it says should also include education about delaying the start of sexual activity, limiting sexual partners and marital fidelity. The Catholic Church opposes condom use as part of its overall opposition to artificial contraception. The Church does, however, play a crucial role in caring for HIV-positive people, particularly in Africa where some two-thirds of the world’s 22 million in-

fected people live. It runs hospitals and hospices, orphanages and clinics and has played a critical role in helping to de-stigmatize those with the virus and stress the need for changes in sexual behavior to stop its spread.

But the Church has long been accused of contributing to the

year when he said in the book “Light of the World” that a male prostitute who intends to use a condom might be taking a first step toward greater responsibility because he is looking out for the welfare of his partner. “This is very important,” Sidibe told the conference Saturday. “This



A group of children play along the hallway of a government housing project Wednesday, May 18, 2011 in Manila, Philippines. After simmering for months, a wide-ranging and acrimonious debate over government-funded access to contraceptives in the Philippines has entered the country’s Congress. The issue pits the powerful and conservative Catholic establishment, which says contraceptives are as sinful as abortions, against reformers who want more openness about condoms and other birth control in the impoverished Southeast Asian nation to slow population growth and help prevent disease.

(AP Photo/Pat Roque)

AIDS crisis because of its opposition to condoms.

That was why Pope Benedict XVI made headlines last

has helped me to understand his position better and has opened up a new space for dialogue.” □

E. coli linked to vegetables sold in northern Germany

JUDY DEMPSEY

© 2011 New York Times

BERLIN — With 10 people dead of infection and 400 cases reported, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said Sunday that a bacterial outbreak in northern Germany was one of the largest of its kind ever reported worldwide. The infection, from a strain of

Escherichia coli, can lead to kidney failure and death and is difficult to treat with antibiotics, according to the Robert Koch Institute, which is Germany’s disease control authority.

Fifteen other cases have been identified in Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden. The patients are German or had visited northern Germany.

Agriculture ministers from the European Union are scheduled to discuss the issue Monday when they meet in Debrecen, Hungary.

Food safety officials in Austria and the Czech Republic said Sunday that small numbers of vegetables that had come from Germany were being pulled off the shelves there. The Associated Press reported. □

After combat, the unexpected perils of coming home

JAMES DAO

© 2011 New York Times

Pvt. Johnnie Stevenson cleaned his truck one last time, scraping off the barnacle-like mud and pulling crushed water bottles from under seats. But deployment to Afghanistan was almost over, and his thoughts drifted elsewhere. Was his pregnant fiancee ready to be a mother? Facebook provided so few clues. Nor could it answer him this: Was he ready to be a father? Capt. Adrian Bonenberger made plans for his final patrol to Imam Sahib. But inside, he was sweating the details of a different mission: going home. Which soldiers would drive drunk, get into fights or struggle with emotional demons, he wondered. What would it take to keep them safe in America?

Sgt. Brian Keith boarded the plane home feeling a strange dread. His wife wanted a divorce and had moved away, taking their son and most of their bank account with her. At the end of his flight lay an empty apartment and the blank slate of a new life.

“A lot of people were excited about coming home,” Keith said. “Me, I just sat there and I wondered: What am I coming back to?”

For a year, they had navigated minefields and ducked bullets, endured tedium inside barbed-wired outposts and stitched together the frayed seams of long-distance relationships. One would think that going home would be the easiest thing troops could do.

But it is not so simple. The final weeks in a war zone are often the most dangerous, as weary troops get sloppy or unfocused. Once they arrive home, alcohol abuse, traffic accidents and other measures of mayhem typically rise as

they blow off steam.

Weeks later, as the joy of return subsides, deep-seated emotional or psychological problems can begin to show. In their new normal, troops must reconnect with children, adjust to more independent spouses and dial back the hypervigilance that served them

“A lot of people were excited about coming home,” Keith said. “Me, I just sat there and I wondered: What am I coming back to?”

well in combat — but that can alienate them from civilians.

“The hardest part for me is, I guess, not being on edge,” said Staff Sgt. Francisco Nariewski, a father of three who just completed his second deployment. “I feel like I need to do something, like I need to go on mission or I need to check my soldiers. And I’m not.”

For the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry out of Fort Drum, N.Y., which recently finished a yearlong tour, leaving Afghanistan proved as deadly as fighting in Afghanistan. In the first 11 months of deployment, the battalion lost two soldiers, both to roadside bombs. During the next month, it lost two more, neither in combat.

On March 9, the day before he was scheduled to leave Kunduz, Spc. Andrew P. Wade, 22, was accidentally shot and killed by a friend who was practicing a drill with his 9-millimeter pistol inside their tent.

Three weeks later, Spc. Jeremiah Pulaski, who had returned from Afghanistan in February, was shot and killed by a police officer after he shot and wounded a man outside a bar in Arizona. He was 24. □

Taiwan show to feature Apple tablet challengers

ANNIE HUANG

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) —

Computer manufacturers of all sizes and descriptions have been pushing to get a piece of the ever-expanding tablet market created by the launch of Apple's iPad in April 2010. The obsession with tablet computing will be on full display Tuesday as Computex, the world's second-largest computer show, begins its annual five-day run in Taipei. The prominence of tablets underscores a dramatic shift under way in the personal computer industry — and keenly felt in Taiwan, which is home to some of the world's biggest PC manufacturers — as many consumers opt to buy a tablet rather than a new PC.

Computex will feature more than 50 tablet models, said organizer Taipei Computer Association, with big names including Lenovo Group Ltd. and Toshiba Corp. having their products displayed.

Researchers have predicted slower growth in PC sales this year because of the rising consumer interest in tablets. Gartner Research recently cut its sales growth forecast for global PC sales in 2011 from 15.9 percent to 10.5 percent. According to IHS iSuppli,

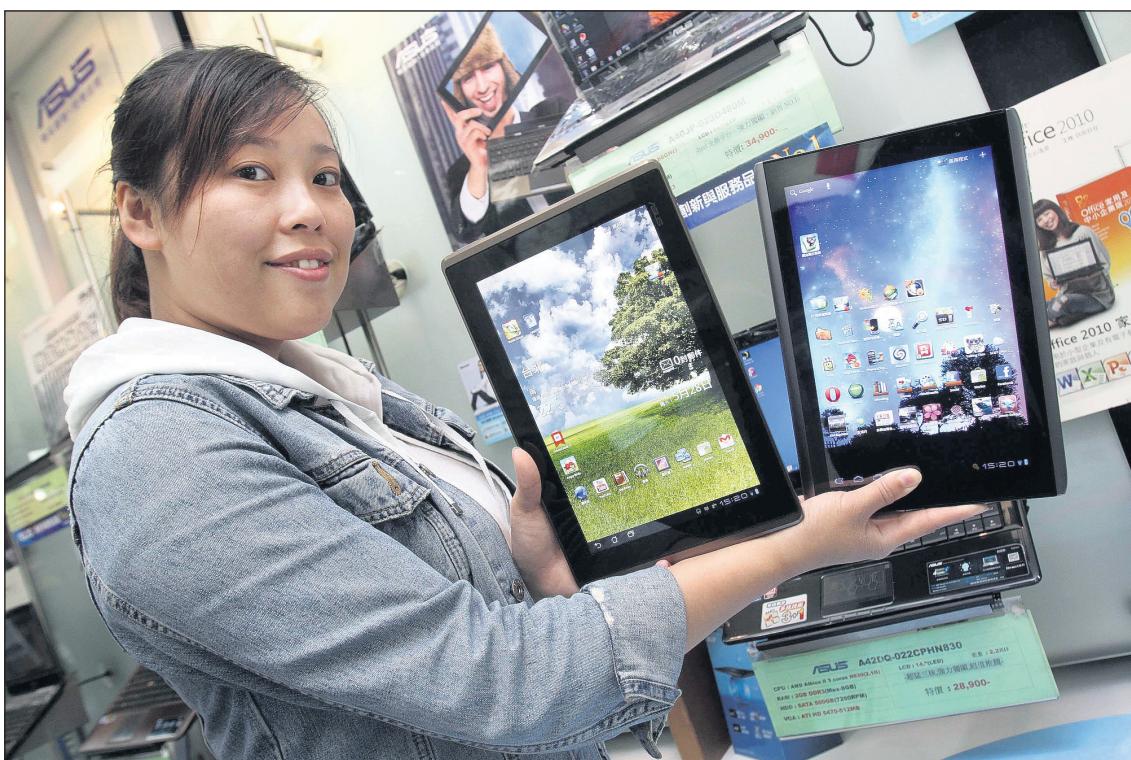
world PC shipments declined 0.3 percent year-on-year to 8.1 million units in the first quarter of 2011, with sales by No. 3-ranked Acer plunging 20 percent.

Many analysts say it may take two or three years before mobile device software from Google Inc. and Microsoft Corp. can catch up with iPads, which have thousands of applications for consumers to choose from. That may mean a hard time for many PC makers in the short term.

Research company CDC says Apple Inc. had a 73 percent share of the tablet market in the last quarter of 2010. South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. was a distant second with 17 percent. It said 2010 tablet sales totaled 18 million units. CDC expects Apple to account for 70-80 percent of 2011 tablet sales that it predicts will reach 50 million units.

Besides tablets, Computex will also feature corporate and home servers and other cloud-based computing equipment and services, a sector Taiwanese firms have recently entered to make up for shortfalls in PC sales.

The world's top contract laptop manufacturer, Taiwan-based Quanta Computer Co.,



A showroom employee displays a tablet computer from one of Taiwan's top PC vendors Acer Inc. in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday May 28, 2011, photo.

Associated Press

is among those producing servers for global firms such as Google. Cloud computing involves running applications in web browsers. The cloud allows users to store and retrieve data over the Internet whenever it is needed, instead of saving it on their own computers. At least 10 of

the tablet models to be shown at Computex are powered by Intel Corp.'s new Atom chip, the U.S. technology giant's first microprocessor designed for tablets. Intel has moved into the fast growing market now dominated by chips using designs by UK-based ARM Holdings. The new Atom "de-

livers improved video playback, fast Internet browsing and longer battery life," Navin Shenoy, general manager of Intel's Asia-Pacific region, said in an emailed statement. There is "a tremendous amount of experimentation going on in the industry," Shenoy said. □

Lockheed Martin hit by cyber attack

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hackers launched a "significant and tenacious" cyber attack on Lockheed Martin, a major defense contractor holding highly sensitive information, but its secrets remained safe, the company said Saturday. Lockheed Martin, the Department of Homeland Security and the Pentagon confirmed that the contractor's information systems had come under attack. Lt. Col. April Cunningham, speaking for the Defense Department, said the impact on the Pentagon "is minimal and we don't expect any adverse effect." Still, the concerted attempt to breach the contractor's systems underscored the risk to the nation's critical defense data. Chris Ortman, Homeland Security spokesman, said his agency and the Pentagon were working with the company to determine the breadth of the attack and "provide recommendations to mitigate further risk."

Lockheed Martin said in a statement that it detected the May 21 attack "almost immediately" and took countermeasures. As a result, "our systems remain secure; no customer, program or employee personal data has been compromised." □

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U.S. vacationers face record costs to fly

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — To fly someone from New York to Los Angeles and back, airlines spend close to \$330 these days — just on fuel.

That's a 48 percent increase from last year and the main reason vacationers face record costs to fly this summer. To offset their single biggest expense, airlines have hiked fares seven times this year and raised fees for checking bags and other services. This has only added to the frustration of most casual fliers who see \$59 fares advertised but are quoted prices well above \$300 when they actually try to book. Americans' expectations of a cheap vacation are being destroyed by the reality of \$100-a-barrel oil.

"The passenger has to understand that the airline industry in the United States is not meant to be a low-cost mass transit system. The airlines are in business to be profitable," says airline analyst Robert Herbst.

A decade ago, fuel accounted for about 15 percent of airline operating expenses. Five years ago, it was 29 percent. Today, it's 35 percent.

During the first three months of 2011, the airlines spent \$8.7 billion on fuel, 31 percent more than last year. In the current quarter, jet fuel expenses are even higher.

U.S. airlines burn an average of 22 gallons (83 liters) of fuel for every 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) each passenger flies. At \$3.03 a gallon (3.8 liters), airlines are currently spending \$330 per passenger just on fuel for a 4,950-mile (7,965-kilometer) transcontinental round-trip. Some fliers might have paid less than that for their ticket while others could have spent more than \$2,000.

The industry's remaining expenses break down this way: — Salaries and benefits account for 28 percent. Ten years ago, it was the biggest expense at 39 percent. But several major airlines filed for bankruptcy and that allowed them to renegotiate labor contracts.

— Aircraft maintenance, airport landing fees and travel agency commissions account for 18 percent. □

Wal-Mart replaces executives in China

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has named replacements for two of its top executives in China after they abruptly resigned earlier this month, according to a published report.

The world's largest retailer appointed Mario-Jose Medina as the head of its financial operations in China. Medina previously worked as the chief financial officer of Wal-Mart Chile, The Wall Street Journal said in a report on its website on Sunday. He was hired in 2007 to be the chief financial officer of Wal-Mart Puerto Rico.

The company also said that Del Sloneker, a former senior vice president, will become chief operating officer in China, according to a statement obtained by the newspaper.

The shake-up comes after Wal-Mart's previous chief financial officer in China, Roland Lawrence, and its chief operating officer, Rob Cissell, resigned in mid-May, the paper reported.

China is a key market for Wal-Mart as it looks to expand around the world. The company's sales in China amounted to \$7.5 billion in 2010, making up 2 percent of Wal-Mart's \$420 billion in annual revenue. In the first quarter, the international division's revenue rose 12 percent, led by gains in emerging markets like China, the newspaper said. □

BUSINESS Aruba TODAY

Why safe corporate bonds aren't so smart anymore



In this photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The safest corporate debt isn't looking so smart anymore. Companies deemed good for the money are raising trillions selling bonds to investors who can't seem to get enough of them. It looks like a great deal for both parties — until you consider the details.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The safest corporate debt isn't looking so smart anymore. Companies deemed good for the money are raising trillions selling bonds to investors who can't seem to get enough of them. It looks like a great deal for both parties — until you consider the details.

"When companies start putting out 100-year bonds, you can bet we've hit lows," says Richard Lehmann, a Miami money manager with \$100 million under management. He has largely shunned investment grade corporate bonds. "This market has gone from stupid to ridiculous."

Stocks were the primary target of the Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's attempt to push people out of Treasuries into riskier assets. But corporate IOUs that earn top grades from rating agencies have been on a tear, too — returning 31 percent in two years. That has allowed

Corporate America to put trillions of dollars in their coffers and has sent billions of dollars to Wall Street banks who help them arrange the deals.

disposal. And Norfolk Southern Corp. convinced investors to lend it \$400 million for 100 years.

This has been good for the economy. But investors are another story. "What happens when these securities return to normal valuations?" says Thomas Atteberry, who oversees the FPA New Income fund with \$3.7 billion in assets. "It's not going to be a pretty picture."

The average investment grade corporate bond currently pays 3.73 percent in interest a year, barely more than the current rate of inflation, 3.2 percent.

It's only the second time in two decades that the yield has fallen below 4 percent, according to Barclays Capital. If inflation rises, as many fear will be the outcome of current Fed policies, it will eat away at the buying power of the principal that is returned to bond holders upon maturity. That could turn win-

ning bets into losing ones.

On first blush, Norfolk Southern bonds maturing in 100 years might seem to offer a good defense against the prospect of rising prices. Its bonds are paying 6 percent a year, well above inflation. But inflation can gyrate wildly. Prices have climbed as high as 18 percent annually in the past 100 years. Even at current inflation rates, cash stashed in a coffee jar would lose half its buying power in just 22 years.

Of course, the bigger question might be whether the railroad company will even be around in 2111 to pay anything back. A hundred years ago, the Austro-Hungarian Empire ruled over millions of people and investors held plenty of stock in Colorado Fuel & Iron. Gone are the empire and the stock. Colorado Fuel & Iron was a member of the most stable of Wall Street offerings — the Dow Jones Industrial Average. That is, before it went bankrupt.

"I wouldn't buy a hundred-year bond of anything," says David Sherman of Cohanick Management, a money manager that is shorting investment grade

bonds. "Nothing good can happen to you in that amount of time."

To be fair, many owners of so-called century bonds aren't human beings who won't live to see their money returned. They're pension funds and insurers with a good idea of how much they'll have to pay retirees and heirs in the future. Those groups want a predictable stream of income from bonds to make good on those commitments. Adding to the appeal of investment grade bonds: Regardless of maturity, they typically don't rise and fall in price as sharply as other assets like stocks. They also rarely default, delay interest payments or stop them altogether. As the recovery continues apace, companies issuing bonds defaulted on just 1.3 percent of what they've borrowed, according to Moody's Investors Service.

That could be good for investors if the market hadn't already reflected the lower defaults. In buying bonds, pros like to look at how much more they're getting paid in interest over what they'd get if they held Treasury bonds. □

"It's a reasonable facsimile of doing a little window shopping and maybe you stop in somewhere and get something that piques your fancy," she said, like the blue silk Phillip Lim blouse she recently bought on the Net-a-Porter.

Catalogue, an app introduced by TheFind, runs on an iPad in San Francisco, May 25, 2011. Retailers think they have found a way to give online shopping more of the feel of an outing at the mall or an hour with a catalog, by creating apps for tablet computers that resemble magazines.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times).

Retail:

Tablet apps that have catalog feel

STEPHANIE CLIFFORD
CLAIRE CAIN MILLER
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Mia Sara, 43, a Manhattan transplant in Los Angeles, misses window shopping in New York, but has found a replacement — shopping on her iPad.

"It's a reasonable facsimile of doing a little window shopping and maybe you stop in somewhere and get something that piques your fancy," she said, like the blue silk Phillip Lim blouse she recently bought on the Net-a-Porter.

ing to build versions for other tablets.

EBay, for instance, is building Android tablet apps and a new version of its website designed for tablets. Others, like Blue Nile, the online diamond retailer, are taking a different approach, constructing tablet versions of their websites instead of apps on the theory that most traffic still comes through Web searches.

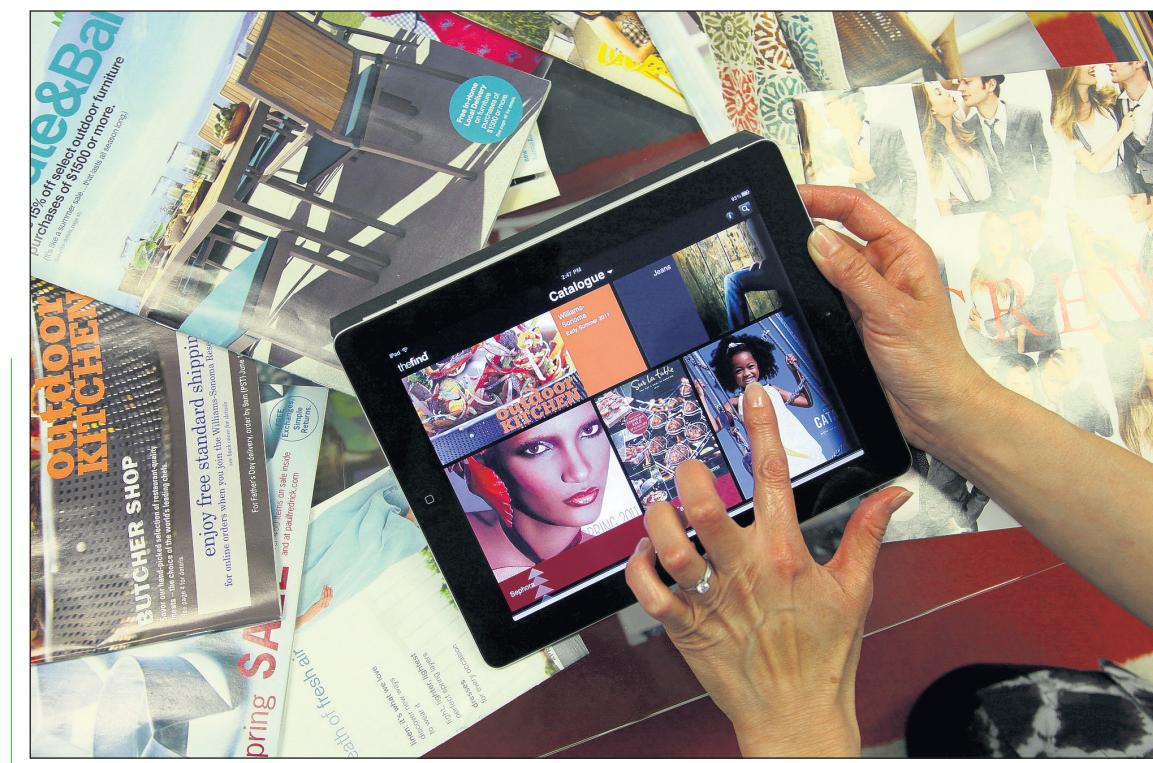
The idea is to offer "shop-ertainment," said Siva Kumar, chief executive of TheFind, a shopping search engine that last week introduced Catalogue, a tablet app that pulls together interactive catalogs from about 30 retailers including Crate & Barrel and Sephora.

"The dominant retailer in China someday may be an online retailer," said Morgan Stanley analyst Richard Ji.

Taobao says its Beijing mall is aimed at overcoming a hurdle hampering the growth of China's Internet commerce even though online retailers offer significantly lower prices: Customers don't like to buy furniture and other major items without examining them in person.

"It's hard for people to shop for home furnishings if they haven't seen them," said Justine Chao, an Alibaba spokeswoman.

Alibaba Group also includes Alibaba.com, a giant business-to-business Internet commerce platform. The company, in which Yahoo Inc. owns a 43 percent stake, operates Yahoo's China arm. □



Traditional retailers like Sears and Ralph Lauren, along with e-commerce focused companies like Amazon, Gilt, QVC, HSN and eBay have all introduced tablet apps.

Many retailers say they see a lucrative future in tablet shopping because even though tablets made up only about 4.4 percent of all computers shipped in 2010, according to Morgan Stanley, they are expected to make up about 20 percent within two years. □

Jewel ready to be a first-time mom



Featured, Jewel who is gearing up for motherhood.

CAITLIN R. KING

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Jewel is gearing up for motherhood, and she's already learned to multi-task. At age 37, the singer-songwriter is expecting her first child — a boy — in July. She's hosting and judging the new Bravo TV show, "Platinum Hit," which premieres Monday, and she's releasing a new children's album in the fall.

Jewel married world champion bull rider Ty Murray in August 2008 after dating for about 10 years. The couple initially said they wanted to start a family right away, but ended up waiting a while.

"We were both real careful and kind of cautious about it. I think it sort of scared both of us," Jewel told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Jewel said they also wanted to make sure they both were at a point in their careers where they could step back and dedicate time to raising a child.

"We feel like it's great timing, even though we're a little older," said Jewel, who wrote and recorded a soothing album called "Lullaby" at her Stephenville, Texas, home while trying to get pregnant.

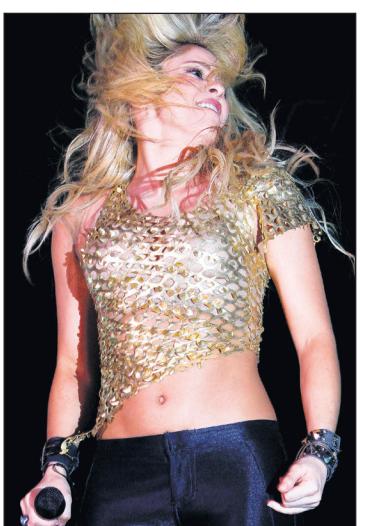
Her pregnancy in turn has inspired her to produce another children's album, "The Merry Goes 'Round," due out in the fall.

Shakira considering album in Arabic

PAUL SCHEMM

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Colombian pop singer Shakira said Saturday she would one day like to sing pop songs, if not an entire album, in Arabic. The native Spanish speaker, who also has global hits in English, was speaking at a news conference in Morocco, where she was headlining the Mawazine World Rhythms music festival. "It would be a challenge to do an album in Arabic. I would first have to learn Arabic," she said. "I am completely open to that experience. ... At some point I would love that to happen in my life." Born in Colombia



Colombia's pop star Shakira performs at Mawazine Festival in Rabat, Morocco, Saturday May 28, 2011.

(AP Photo/Abdeljalil Bounhar)



Zach Galifianakis, a cast member in "The Hangover Part II," poses at the premiere of the film, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

'Hangover' hurls up huge numbers with \$86.5 million weekend debut

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood's hangover is a lot bigger the second time around.

"The Hangover Part II" hauled in \$86.5 million in its first weekend, putting Hollywood on course to set a new revenue record for the long Memorial Day weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

From Friday to Sunday, Hollywood's domestic take to-

taled about \$220 million.

Once Monday's receipts are counted, the industry should finish the four-day weekend with around \$270 million, easily topping the \$254.6 million Memorial Day record set in 2007, said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"The Hangover" sequel did nearly twice the business of the original blockbuster comedy in its \$45 million opening weekend two years ago.

In its first four days since opening Thursday, the Warner Bros. sequel has taken in \$118.1 million and is on track to finish the long Memorial Day weekend with about \$140 million in the bank.

The first "Hangover" did not hit the \$100 million mark until its second weekend. The movie went on to gross \$277 million domestically.

"The Hangover Part II" reunites stars Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis as they awake in another haze and attempt to piece together the mayhem of their drunken night in Bangkok, Thailand.

Overseas, the sequel opened in 40 other countries and added \$59 million.

DreamWorks Animation's "Kung Fu Panda 2" opened

solidly with a \$48 million weekend, though it came in well below the \$60.2 million debut of the first installment three years ago.

Since opening Thursday, "Kung Fu Panda 2" has pulled in \$53.8 million. Distributor Paramount estimates the sequel will reach \$68.2 million when the holiday weekend closes.

With voice stars Jack Black and Angelina Jolie returning, "Kung Fu Panda 2" follows the menagerie of martial-arts heroes as they face a villain aiming to conquer ancient China with gunpowder and cannons.

"Kung Fu Panda 2" also took in \$57 million in 11 overseas markets, including \$18.5 million in China.

After a No. 1 debut the previous weekend, Johnny Depp's "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" slipped to third-place with \$39.3 million. Distributor Disney estimates the sequel's domestic revenues will reach \$163.6 million by the end of the holiday weekend.

"On Stranger Tides" also has taken in nearly half a billion dollars overseas, with its worldwide total through Monday estimated at \$646.5 million. □

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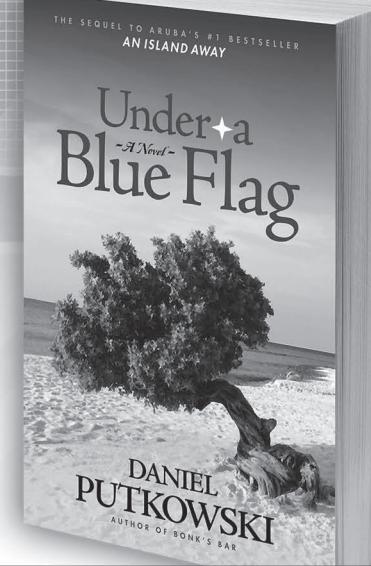


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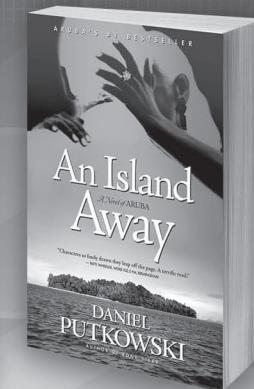
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Hollywood starts to worry as 3-D fizzles in U.S.

BROOKS BARNES

MICHAEL CIEPLY

© 2011 New York Times

LOS ANGELES – Has the 3-D boom already gone bust? It's starting to look that way – at least for U.S. moviegoers – even as Hollywood prepares to release a glut of the gimbicky pictures.

Ripples of fear spread across Hollywood last week after "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," which cost Walt Disney Studios an estimated \$400 million to make and market, did poor 3-D business in North America. While event movies have typically done 60 percent of their business in 3-D, "Stranger Tides" sold just 47 percent in 3-D. "The American consumer is rejecting 3-D," Richard Greenfield, an analyst at the financial services company BTIG, wrote of the "Stranger Tides" results.

One movie does not make a trend, but the Memorial Day weekend did not give studio chiefs much comfort in the 3-D department. "Kung Fu Panda 2," a Paramount Pictures release of a DreamWorks Animation film, sold \$53.8 million in tickets from Thursday to Sunday, a soft total, and 3-D was 45 percent of the business, according to Paramount.

Consumer rebellion over high 3-D ticket prices plays a role, and the novelty of putting on the funny glasses is wearing off, analysts say. But there is also a deeper problem: 3-D has provided an enormous boost to the strongest films, including "Avatar" and "Alice in Wonderland," but has actually undercut middling movies that are trying to milk the format for extra dollars. "Audiences are very smart," said Greg Foster, the president of Imax Filmed Entertainment. "When they smell something aspiring to be more than it is, they catch on very quickly." Muddying the picture is a contrast between the performance of 3-D movies in North America and overseas. If results are troubling domestically, they are the exact opposite internationally, where the genre is a far newer phenomenon. Indeed, 3-D screenings powered "Stranger Tides" to about \$256 million on its first weekend abroad; Disney trumpeted the figure as the biggest international debut of all time. With results like that at a time when movies make 70 percent of their total box office income outside North America, do tastes at home even matter?

After a disappointing first half of the year, Hollywood is counting on a parade of 3-D films to dig itself out of a hole. From May to September, the typical summer season, studios will unleash 16 movies in the format, more than double the number last year. Among the most anticipated releases are "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," due from Paramount on July 1, and Part 2 of Part 7 of the "Harry Potter" series, arriving two weeks later from Warner Brothers. □

City college of New York to support new theater

FELICIA R. LEE

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NEW YORK – In a bid to broaden its theater program and to bring additional polished, diverse theater uptown, City College of New York is lending critical support to an effort to open a new professional theater in residence uptown at Aaron Davis Hall. Called the New Harlem Arts Theater, the venture is the brainchild of Eugene Nesmith, chairman of the theater and speech department at City College. As the artistic director for the new theater, he has been able to secure about \$50,000 in seed money from the college.

"To do the kind of season I'd really like to do, we would probably need about \$200,000," Nesmith said in a recent interview. "The name has to get out there in a major way. We're not going to get the Broadway audience. We're pulling on our students, our alumni, the Harlem community. We're working all the social media we can."

The college, which has roughly 16,000 students and is part of the City University of New York, made the commitment to the theater despite a sluggish economy that has hurt arts financing and trimmed audiences. A professional theater is expected to boost the profile of the college's theater department, currently one of the smaller departments, with only about 130 majors taking courses in acting, directing, theater history and the like. Nesmith says his long-term goal is for the theater department to offer an MFA program and a place for theater majors



Eugene Nesmith, the chair of the Department of Theater and Speech at City College, in New York, May 27, 2011. In a bid to broaden its theater education program and bring diverse theater uptown, City College is lending its support to open a new theater in residence called the New Harlem Arts Theater.

(Jennifer S. Altman/The New York Times)

to hone their skills alongside professionals. He also wants to establish a "professional theater company representative of the best America has to offer in the arts," he said. The money comes first, though. There is an Oct. 3 fundraiser at Aaron Davis Hall in Hamilton Heights, just west of Harlem. Nesmith said he hopes to identify 100 founding members to defray costs and provide support.

New Harlem will produce James Baldwin's "Blues for Mister Charlie," directed by Nesmith, from June 23 to July 17. The musical revue "It Ain't Nothing but the Blues" will be directed by Alfred Preisser, a co-founder and former artistic director of The Classical Theater of Harlem. Tickets are \$15 to \$25.

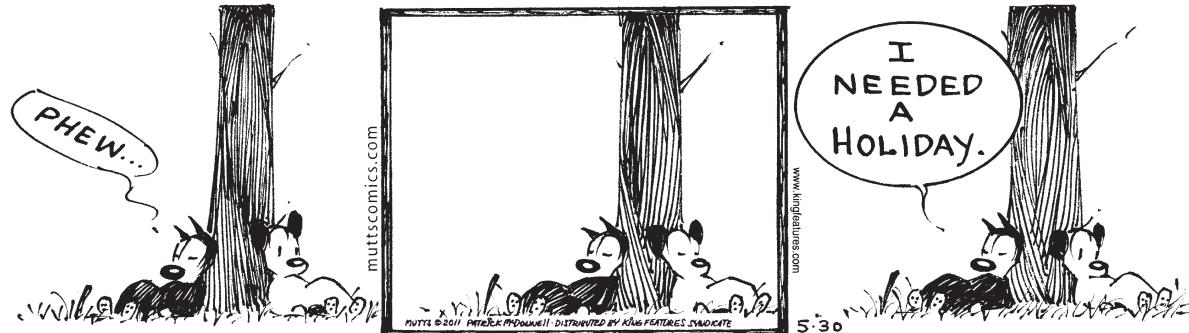
Lisa Staiano-Coico, who became City College's president last year, has been supportive of New Harlem and efforts by the college to focus more on arts education, said Geraldine Murphy, acting dean of

humanities and the arts.

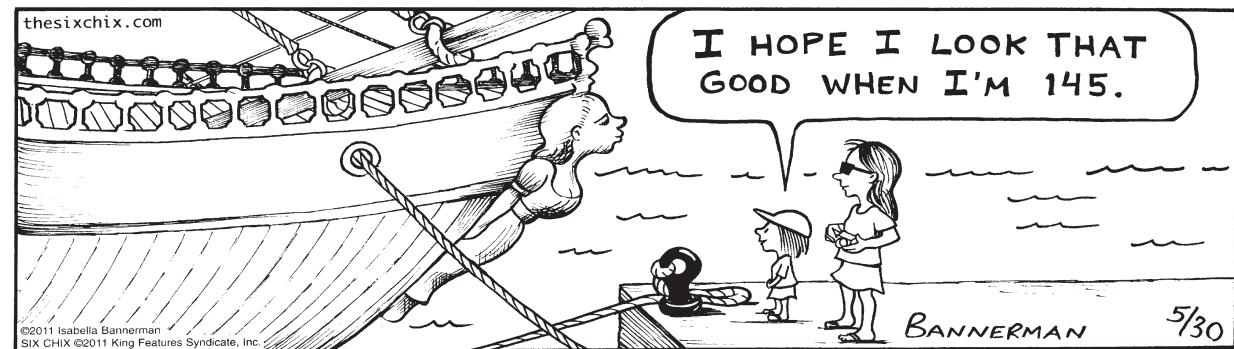
"It's a bad time for the city, it's a bad time for CUNY, but you can't just sit still," Murphy said. "It's something of a gamble, but I think there's an audience or potential audience," she added. "It really will depend on how the summer goes. Part of it is just hope and hard work."

Preisser, a guest artist at New Harlem and a member of its advisory board, co-founded Classical Theater in 1999. During his tenure the theater won plaudits for drawing culturally diverse audiences to productions of everything from Shakespeare to Beckett, and for featuring black actors. The theater continues to operate under new artistic leadership. Preisser, who left Classical Theater in 2009, recalled that he spent much of his time there raising money. He predicted that New Harlem could become a draw uptown with continued support from City College and some critical attention. □

Mutts



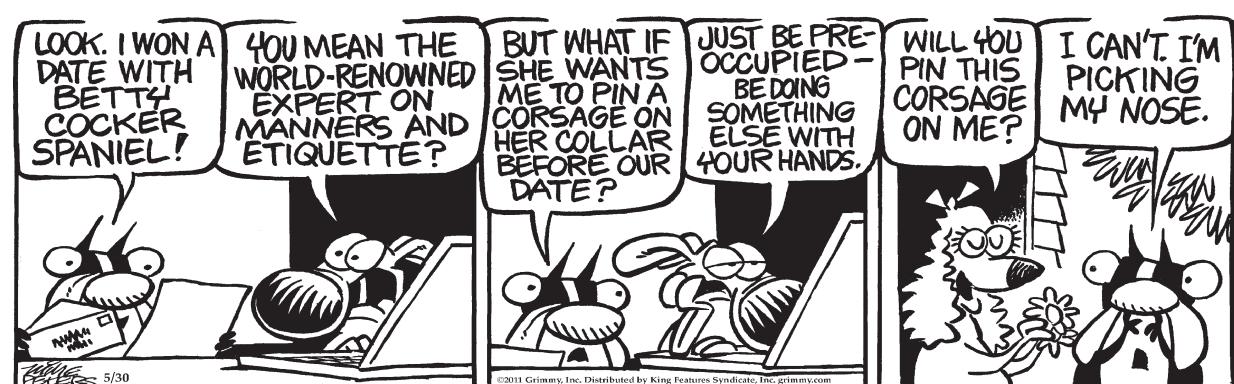
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	9	6	4	7
5	3		2	9
	1	5		6
3	5		2	1
2	7		3	6
4		8	9	2
	8		2	5
7	2		1	8
1	4	6	8	5

Difficulty Level ★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	2	8	3	4	1	5	9	7
7	9	3	5	8	6	2	4	1
1	4	5	9	2	7	6	3	8
5	3	7	6	9	8	4	1	2
4	1	9	2	7	3	8	5	6
8	6	2	1	5	4	3	7	9
9	5	4	8	1	2	7	6	3
2	7	6	4	3	9	1	8	5
3	8	1	7	6	5	9	2	4

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20				21				22		23			
								24		25			
26	27	28						29		30	31	32	33
34					35				36		37		
37			38					39		40			
41		42				43				44			
45					46				47				
51	52	53						54		55	56	57	
58					59	60			61				
62					63				64				
65					66				67				

5/30/11

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

2	Uganda's Idi	1	TRIER	AHEM	ACLU
3	Picture card	2	HEDGE	NERO	PLAN
4	Everlasting	3	ADORE	TRAM	PARS
5	Push	4	IDLENESS	EMERGE	
6	Seep	5	STAY	SNEAKER	
7	Prefix for stop or sense	6	NOISES	TATER	
8	Topeka resident	7	EAR	REPLETE	KEATS
9	Scornful look	8	SHOT	DREAM	DIRE
10	Made cuts in	9	TUNES	ENDED	DEN
11	One venerated in a mosque	10	MADE	SWISS	CEASED
12	2000 pounds	11	CAFTANS	SCAM	
13	Bursting at the __; fuller than anticipated	12	ALLAYS	DIALOGUE	
14	Pocket billiards	13	BOUT	AMID	ERASE
15	Debtor's note	14	INTO	NAVE	RAVEL
16	Baggage porter	15	NEER	EYED	SLEDS
17	Plus	16			
18	Plead	17			
19	Go quickly	18			
20	Get back	19			
21	Prefix for stop or sense	20			
22	Trait transmitter	21			
23	General tendency	22			
24	Gents	23			
25	Put into boxes	24			
26	Fragrant wood	25			
27	Saloon	26			
28	Common pain reliever	27			
29	Fell	28			
30	Rustic home	29			
31	Assistant	30			
32	Potter's oven	31			
33	Wading bird	32			
34	Big smile	33			
35	Blemish	34			
36	Raises, as kids	35			
37	Dines	36			
38	Large sea duck	37			
39	Long, long time	38			
40	Very old	39			
41	Trash	40			
42	Handle; direct	41			
43	Machine wheel	42			
44	Food chopper	43			
45	Taps the baseball lightly	44			
46	Hideaways	45			
47	Woman's item	46			

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5/30/11

1	Inside spy	2	Invites
2	Recluse	3	Pinta or Titanic
3	Get stuck	4	Long, long time
4	Tricycle rider	5	53 "Sport of Kings"
5	Handle; direct	6	44 Trash
6	Machine wheel	7	54 Bleachers level
7	Food chopper	8	55 Italy's dollar in the past
8	Taps the baseball lightly	9	56 Correct a text
9	Galloped	10	57 Hideaways

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Garden

Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*

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Wk 47 \$10,000 2BR Pool*

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Science can't design away tornadoes' deadly threat

RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Storm science has greatly improved tornado warnings in recent years. But if that's led anyone into a sense of security, that feeling has taken a beating in recent weeks.

Super Outbreak 2011, on April 25-28, killed more than 300 people in the South and Midwest. Less than a month later, a devastating tornado took more than 120 lives around

Joplin, Missouri. This now could be the deadliest year for tornadoes since 1950, based on an assessment of National Weather Service figures. This despite warnings of as much as 20 minutes, thanks to improved weather radar installed across the country in the 1990s. Before that, tornado warnings often weren't issued until a twister was sighted on the ground.

Scientists see a variety of factors that helped make this

year's twisters deadlier — from La Niña to public complacency, from global warming to urban sprawl.

"We thought for the longest time physical science could get us by ... that we could design out of disaster," said meteorology professor Walker Ashley of Northern Illinois University. Now scientists are finding they need to take human nature into account.

What is clear is that certain factors add to the risk of death. The most vulnerable folks are those living in mobile homes and houses without basements. For a variety of reasons, a lot of homes don't have basements.

Twisters occurring on weekends — like the Joplin tornado — and at night tend to be greater killers because they catch people at home. At night, twisters are harder to see and sleeping people may not hear a warning.

Those less likely to be killed in a storm tend to be more



In this May 22, 2011 file photo, a destroyed helicopter lies on its side in the parking lot of the Joplin Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Mo.

Associated Press

educated and to have a plan in place beforehand.

In Sedalia, Missouri, 30-year-old Sean McCabe had the right idea when the tornado struck, heading to the basement. He said the storm shoved him down the final flight of steps. He had scrapes and cuts on his hands, wrists, back and feet. Blood was visible in the house, and much of the roof of the house was gone.

"I saw little debris and then I saw big debris, and I'm like OK, let's go," said McCabe. Having a plan was a lifesaver for Tuscaloosa's LaRocca Nursing Home in Alabama. As the storm howled, four dozen residents massed in the hallways as trees crashed down and a cloud of dust rained upon them. When the dust settled, the staff realized their drills had paid off. Not one patient was killed, and the worst injury among them was a bruise.

Hundreds have not been so lucky. The death toll reported Saturday by the city of Joplin stands at 139, which if correct puts this year's tornado death toll at 520 — exceeding the previous highest recorded death toll in a single year of 519 in 1953. But Missouri state officials counted 126 dead, a discrepancy that left unclear whether 2011 has yet set the modern record for tornado fatalities.

There were deadlier storms before 1950, but those counts were based on estimates and not on precise figures.

The National Weather Service said 58 tornadoes touched down in Alabama on April 27, killing 238 people in that state alone and injuring thousands. □

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Venezolanos protestaron sanciones de EEUU a petrolera estatal

CARACAS (AP) — Miles de simpatizantes del gobierno venezolano colmaron el domingo una plaza del oeste de la capital para rechazar las sanciones que Estados Unidos impuso a la petrolera estatal del país, una medida que el presidente Hugo Chávez ha usado para despertar sentimientos nacionalistas e impulsar su popularidad.

Los partidarios de Chávez marcharon por varias calles de Caracas ondeando la bandera nacional y gritando "el pueblo unido jamás será vencido", para después congregarse en una plaza donde escucharon discursos de las autoridades en respaldo a Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. (PDVSA).

"Con Venezuela nadie se mete", "Venezuela se respeta", dijo a la multitud el Ministro de Energía Rafael Ramírez.

El funcionario ha asegurado que los cargamentos de crudo pesado seguirán fluyendo a las filiales de PDVSA en Estados Unidos, pero que no puede garantizar embarques a otras empresas privadas. Venezuela es uno de los principales proveedores del mercado estadounidense de petróleo.

Las sanciones bloquean la posibilidad de que PDVSA suscriba contratos con el gobierno estadounidense, reciba financiamiento de ese país para importaciones y exportaciones y obtenga licencias de exportación de tecnología sensible, pero no impiden la venta de petróleo.

Chávez ha tratado por años de diversificar los clientes del crudo del país, aumentando las exportaciones hacia China y otros países.

Ramírez ha insinuado que la petrolera podría acelerar esas

iniciativas para reducir la dependencia del país de Estados Unidos.

Washington sancionó a PDVSA y otras seis empresas extranjeras por hacer negocios con Irán. El Departamento de Estado dijo que la petrolera venezolana envió a Irán por lo menos dos cargamentos de productos refinados de petróleo por unos 50 millones de dólares entre diciembre de 2010 y marzo de 2011.

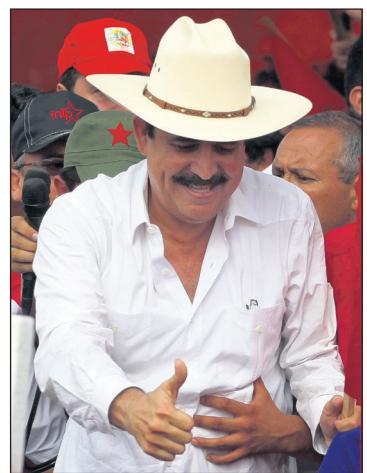
La oposición venezolana también ha criticado las sanciones, pero Chávez y sus simpatizantes han tratado de hacer ver que las han aplaudido.

"Ellos son peones del imperio", dijo mientras marchaba Edgar Torres respecto a los políticos que adversan a Chávez. "A ellos no les importa nada nuestro país", agregó. Estados Unidos es el principal comprador del petróleo venezolano, y el Gobierno de Chávez depende fuertemente de los 4.000 millones de dólares que gana anualmente PDVSA para ejecutar los programas sociales que destina a los pobres.

Analistas de la industria afirman que las sanciones no afectarán el negocio de PDVSA porque no bloquean la venta de petróleo a Estados Unidos. □

Arzobispo salvadoreño:

Retorno de Zelaya es paso importante



El derruido presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, arribó el sábado a Tegucigalpa acompañado por su familia en un avión venezolano procedente de Nicaragua, tras varios meses de exilio.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — El retorno del ex presidente Manuel Zelaya a Honduras es un paso importante para la democracia de ese país y sus aspiraciones por reingresar a la OEA, dijo el domingo el arzobispo salvadoreño monseñor José Luis Alas. "Auguramos que finalmente Honduras encuentre un cami-

no de paz, progreso, de superación, de desarrollo, integrando a la comunidad americana de la OEA", agregó en rueda de prensa tras concluir la misa principal en la catedral de San Salvador.

El arzobispo espera que se anuncie la reincorporación de Honduras a más tardar en la asamblea general de la OEA a celebrarse del 5 al 7 de junio en esta capital. La OEA analizará el miércoles la situación hondureña en Washington.

Zelaya arribó el sábado a Tegucigalpa acompañado por su familia en un avión venezolano procedente de Nicaragua, tras varios meses de exilio. Fue derrocado en un golpe de Estado el 28 de junio de 2009. Honduras quedó marginada de la OEA y del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana tras el golpe contra Zelaya. El retorno del ex mandatario y la reincorporación del país centroamericano a la OEA fueron los principales puntos del Acuerdo de Cartagena auspiciado por Colombia y Venezuela. □



Los partidarios del presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez marcharon por varias calles de Caracas ondeando la bandera nacional y gritando "el pueblo unido jamás será vencido", para rechazar las sanciones que Estados Unidos impuso a la petrolera estatal del país. Washington sancionó a PDVSA y otras seis empresas extranjeras por hacer negocios con Irán.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

Ecuador:

Estiman daños por cierre de casinos

QUITO (AP) — Unas 25.000 personas relacionadas con el negocio de los casinos en Ecuador serán afectados por el cierre de dichos establecimientos derivado de la reciente consulta popular, afirmaron los propietarios que piden cinco años para recuperar sus inversiones.

Se trata de 3.000 trabajadores directos y otros 22.000 indirectos, que deberán reorientar sus actividad económica, aseguró el domingo Jorge Castro, vicepresidente de la Asociación Nacional de Casinos, que agrupa a 32 establecimientos de ese tipo y unas 15 salas de juego que operan legalmente en el país.

A ello se suma un monto de inversión estimado en 170 millones de dólares, cuya recuperación requeriría entre tres y cinco años, agregó el dirigente en declaraciones al canal estatal Gamatv.

Castro solicitó flexibilización por parte del estado para encontrar una solución a la situación del sector, y mencionó un eventual acuerdo que permita el funcionamiento de los

casinos en las principales ciudades del país, donde la pregunta 7 del referendo no obtuvo el voto mayoritario.

Según los resultados del Consejo Nacional Electoral, más del 45% de votantes aprobó la eliminación de los casinos a nivel nacional, mientras cerca del 42% lo rechazó. Sin embargo, en Quito y Guayaquil, las ciudades más grandes y habitadas del Ecuador, la ciudadanía rechazó el planteamiento.

Pero la propuesta resulta inviable, para el ministro de Turismo Freddy Ehlers, dado que el referendo arroja resultados que deberán ejecutarse obligatoriamente a nivel nacional, con excepción de la pregunta relacionada a la eliminación de la muerte de animales en espectáculos públicos que fue de carácter cantonal.

En el mismo espacio informativo, el secretario de Estado recordó que el eje de la acción gubernamental denominado del "buen vivir" es "incompatible" con la permanencia de los casinos y juegos de azar. □

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